



Application to demolish former offices expected in July

# END IN SIGHT FOR EYESORE BLOCK

Report by Richard Guttridge

**AN APPLICATION to demolish an eyesore Dudley office block is expected within weeks, which would then kick-start ambitious plans for a multi-million retail development.**

The proposals for the Cavendish House site have been hit by delays, but developers now appear to be ready to go ahead with the scheme.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley revealed that he had held discussions with the building's owners Avenbury and that a planning application was expected in July.

The derelict building, which has stood empty for years on one of the major gateways into Dudley, overlooks the Duncan Edwards Way bypass.

A masterplan for the site would see the office block bulldozed and replaced by a major shopping development.

Councillor Harley said: "The developers are due to put a planning application in in July. Once it gets in we can get cracking with getting rid of Cavendish House and redeveloping a whole section of the town."

## Regeneration

"The town is desperate for a real injection to breathe fresh life into it."

He added: "We will be looking to support it. Regeneration is what the town is crying out for."

"We have been waiting for Cavendish House to come down for many years."

In April Avenbury revealed that it wanted an access road connecting the site to Duncan Edwards Way to be created before the building was knocked down.

But according to Councillor Harley: "The access road will not be a problem."

"It will allow easy access from the bypass onto Hall Street."

If the building, off Trindle Road, is knocked down it is hoped the area will given a new lease of life with homes, restaurants and shops.

Avenbury bought the former office block for £800,000 at a property auction in London in 2015.

## VOLUNTEERS REMOVE TROLLIES CLOGGING UP RIVER



The Project River group in Stourbridge is cleaning up the River Stour in Stourbridge, removing rubbish including dumped shopping trolleys

COVERED in weeds and mould, these trolleys are back on dry land having spent a long time submerged in the River Stour.

They were pulled from the river in Stourbridge as part of as volunteer group's latest effort to keep the water free of rubbish.

Around 150 trolleys have been plucked

from the river by the volunteers over the past five years.

Other rubbish that has ended up in the water includes fencing, building materials and an exhaust pipe. These have been collected along the stretch of river from the Stourbridge ring road to Wollaston.

Graham Beckley, from the Project River group, said: "It isn't just trolleys, we have had tyres, bikes and wire fencing. Much of it has been there for years."

"It is now physical rubbish that is the problem. It used to be chemicals. I can't understand the people who do this."

## THEFT

### Charity takings are stolen from gym

HUNDREDS of pounds of charity donations have been stolen from a gym.

Around £500 is thought to have been taken from ladies only gym Gymphobics on High Street, Halesowen.

The cash had been donated by members for cancer charity Macmillan and Edward's Trust, and was kept in money bags and envelopes a locker. Some of the cash also belonged to the gym.

Manager Andrea Withers said: "To steal from any charity is wrong. It's pretty low."

## TRAVELLERS

### Anger as caravan convoy parks up

RESIDENTS pleading for action after more than 20 travellers' caravans pitched up on land at Milking Bank in Dudley.

At least 12 vehicles remained on the site off Aintree Way on Monday as Dudley Council took steps to get them moved on.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin called for swift action to get the travellers to leave after concerns were raised by residents. The site is near Milking Bank Primary School.

## AUCTION

### Bottoms up! Pub to go under the hammer

A PUB building in Cradley Heath will be offered for sale at an auction in Birmingham next month.

The Five Ways, on Heath High Street, has been converted into retail space and flats.

The former pub is due to go under the hammer at an SDL Bigwood auction at Villa Park on Thursday, July 6, and carries a guide price of between £250,000 and £275,000.

The pub was once a busy Cradley Heath venue but was left empty before being taken over by developers.

## INSIDE

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PAGE 4



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2 CONTENTS

PETER RHODES	6
LETTERS	7
MEMORY LANE	16
THE TICKET	23
BRAIN GYM	29
PROPERTY	31 & 32
MOTORING	33 & 34
SPORT	39 & 40
CONTACT US	

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# Emergency summit called after inferno

COUNCIL bosses held an emergency meeting with West Midlands Fire Service chiefs to discuss safety in high-rise blocks following the Grenfell Tower blaze in London, in which many have died.

The service hosted representatives from all seven of the local authorities in the West Midlands at its Birmingham headquarters to review and discuss the current arrangements in response to the major disaster in Kensington.

Chief fire officer Phil Loach said there were 'no significant known issues' with tower blocks in the Midlands.

He said: "We have taken the action of instigating a meeting where we invited representatives from all the councils across the West Midlands to take

stock of where we are in our arrangements, to ensure we are able to respond to any immediate outcomes from the Grenfell Tower incident. We want to ensure we have maintained the structures that allow us to take in any of the medium and long term actions that I think we can all reasonably predict will be an outcome of this event.

## Lessons

"If there are specific lessons learned to come out of this incident, as we consistently and constantly do with other incidents, we will take them on board and train for them to make sure we maintain that status of being the best that we can be. We have a really effective emergency response which we hope

never to use but it is there and we are confident our attendance standards and our ability to fight the fires is amongst the best in the country."

Mr Loach said there were nearly 1,000 residential buildings in the West Midlands of four storeys or more. "It is vitally important that anyone who lives or works in a high-rise building makes sure they know their building's specific escape plan, which should be clearly and regularly communicated by the owner or landlord."

Dudley Council chief executive Sarah Norman said: "We are taking urgent steps to check safety systems and the advice we give Dudley tenants."

The last major high-rise blaze in the region was at Merry Hill Court, Smethwick, in 1990.

# Family get refund from council after care dispute

A TWO-YEAR long row between Dudley Council and a family over the cost of a woman's dementia care has been decided in the relatives' favour by the ombudsman.

The family had been told by the council to pay 'top-up' fees or the woman, who has not been named, would have to be moved to a cheaper care home.

The authority has now apologised and issued a £4,600 refund to the family after the ombudsman ruled they were treated unfairly.

It follows an investigation finding that the family were given 'no alternative but to pay third-party top-up fees' for their mother's care.

The mother, who had vascular dementia, moved into a care home in February 2015 after the family initially agreed to pay £408 a week, including the top-up - money relatives can pay if they require more expensive care than a council is offering. The move was arranged by the Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust, on behalf of the council.

However, social care experts have said families should not be left with the bill just because it is more than a council is willing to pay. Local authorities are expected to offer care homes which are affordable if relatives are struggling to pay.

## Reassessed

In November 2015, the family said they could no longer afford the £50 weekly fee and asked for the council's help. The mother's needs were reassessed, but there was no record of any consideration of the affordability of the £50 weekly top-up fee, the ombudsman said.

The family complained to the council but bosses insisted if they could not afford the £50 top-up, then the vulnerable woman would be moved to a cheaper home. The aggrieved relatives took the case to the ombudsman.

It concluded the trust, on behalf of the council, 'had not acted in line with statutory guidance' and there was no evidence any alternative placement was made available which would not need a top-up.

Councillor Nicolas Barlow, council cabinet member for adult social care, said: "The Local Government Ombudsman has issued a report about the council's top-up fee arrangements and has made a number of recommendations, which we accept. We will implement these carefully and have already sincerely apologised to the family involved and organised a refund."

# It's Good Company at church concert

THE Good Company choir will be performing at All Saints' Church in Sedgley next Saturday, July 1.

Tony Hart, a member of the All Saints' group organising the event, said: "I am really looking forward to hearing the choir in All Saints' Church with its excellent acoustics."

The concert is at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8, available by calling 01902 540289.

# Museum to expand with £10m funding

**HISTORIC buildings will be brought back to life after the Black Country Living Museum was awarded almost £10 million to go ahead with a major new project.**

The funding has been awarded by Heritage Lottery and will see the attraction expanded by a third with a new 1940 to '60s town.

Around 100 jobs are anticipated to be created at the museum in Dudley and more than 400 during construction. Iconic buildings will also be moved to the site on Tipton Road, including West Bromwich Gas Showroom and Dudley's Woodside Library.

Some will be moved brick-by-brick, while others, including Wolverhampton's Elephant and Castle pub, which was controversially demolished around the turn of the century, and Lye's Marsh and Baxter's Butchers, will be recreated by referring to old pictures and other archived material.

## Ambitious

The ambitious scheme will create a picture of the post-war region, telling the story of the Black Country up to the closure of the Baggeridge Coal Mine in 1968. A new visitor centre and car park and learning centre also form part of the plans.

The funding is a major boost for the museum and Black Country tourism as a whole. The upgrade is expected to attract an extra half a million visitors each year and set it up the museum for the next 40 years.

In total the project will cost £21.7m and a further bid for funding will be submitted next year. If that is successful, construction is expected to be completed in 2022. The £9.8m awarded will allow experts to start working on the proposals ahead of the next bid for funds.

Museum chairman Lowell Williams said: "We are excited to get started on this project, which has been three years in the making and kick-starts the museum's masterplan for the next 40 years."



West Bromwich gas showroom will be rescued



Victorian Woodside Library was a gift from the Earl of Dudley



An artist's impression showing how the Tipton Road museum's 1940s to 1960s town will look

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## Grandfather jailed after glass used in pub fight

LEWD comments about a barmaid triggered violence in a Black Country pub and led to a 61-year-old grandfather being sent to prison.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that Christopher Massey made the remarks at the Fox and Grapes in High Street, Pensnett, and they were reported back to the barmaid.

'Words were exchanged' between her and 61-year-old Massey, who was then told by fellow customer Stuart Pountney 'you are not right in the head,' revealed Mr David Swinerton, prosecuting. The furious defendant smashed a half-full glass into the side of Mr Pountney's face as the pair became involved in a scuffle.

The victim, who had known the defendant for around seven years, suffered cuts to his face but was not seriously injured in the incident on January 5.

Massey later told police he had been 'tipsy' after downing four pints and lashed out following the comment from Mr Pountney, who had already annoyed him by revealing their earlier conversation to the barmaid.

Mr Jason Pegg, defending, said: "What happened was the result of too much alcohol being drunk. This was an act of stupidity, the consequences of which he recognises could have been a lot more serious."

Massey, of Queen Street, Pensnett, who suffers from depression, had a previous conviction for assault.

He was sent to prison for six months by Judge Nicholas Webb.

## Teenager in court after stabbing

A TEENAGER from Dudley has been charged with attempted murder following a stabbing in Worcester.

Ethan Bell-Milne, aged 19, of Himley Street, appeared in court on Friday charged with attempted murder, wounding with intent and possession of an offensive weapon. It follows the stabbing in Worcester on Sunday.

Bell-Milne appeared during a brief hearing at Worcester Magistrates Court.

He is due to appear next at Worcester Crown Court on July 10 and was remanded in custody.

A 33-year-old woman and a 41-year-old man, both from Worcester, who were arrested on suspicion of aiding and abetting attempted murder have been released without charge.

## Scouts planning a 50 year reunion

THIRD Sedgley (St Andrew's) Scout group is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a reunion on November 4 at St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street, Sedgley. Email 50years@3rdsedgley@gmail.com or call 01902 885542.

# Couple celebrate 72 years of marriage



Charles and Ellen Harris met 80 years ago

THEY met aged just 10 and 12, as youngsters on the country's waterways. Today, more than 80 years on and having gone through the upheaval of war, Tipton couple Charles and Ellen Harris are marking their 72nd wedding anniversary.

The pair met on the canals in Gloucester when Mrs Harris' mother moved to the city. Despite losing touch and Mr Harris serving in the Second World War, the pair found each other again years later – and tied the knot in the month of VE Day in June 1945.

The past two years has seen a flurry

of celebrations for the couple. First they marked their platinum anniversary. Then last year, Mr Harris was awarded France's highest military honour, the Legion D'Honneur, in recognition of the part he played in the D-Day landings. Mr Harris, now 94, landed on Juno Beach in June 1944 before fighting his way to Le Havre with the Royal Engineers.

After being hit by shrapnel, he was treated in England and discharged in February 1945.

Two months later he reunited with Mrs Harris, who is now 92. He said:

"I saw her, and she was beautiful. I thought, I've done alright here."

They married at Birmingham Register Office and moved to the Black Country.

Mr Harris worked on the railways and the couple lived in Bilston, moving to Tipton in the 1960s, and today live in Elizabeth Walk, close to their daughter Ann Davies. They also have two sons, five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Mr Harris said: "I wouldn't change my marriage for the world. We're both still very happy."

# £200m Metro link on track for green light

THE £200 MILLION Midland Metro extension to Brierley Hill is on the verge of getting the green light after final plans were unveiled to Transport Secretary Chris Grayling.

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street met with Mr Grayling at the Houses of Parliament in London on Monday to secure the multi-million pound funding for the project which has been more than a decade in the making.

It marks a major step forward for the scheme, which will see the tram stop at such popular attractions as Merry Hill shopping centre and Dudley Zoo and Castle.

Mr Street, who presented the Secretary of State with a business plan alongside Transport for West Midlands managing director Laura Shoaf, said: "It is hard to understate just how important this project is to the Black Country."

"The business case shows that for every pound invested in this project, it will return £2.50 for the local economy."

"It will align employment, education, health and tourism along the corridor, stimulating investment in the Black Country and enabling the building of 50,000 homes and bringing 170 hectares of brown-field land."

### Passengers

"It will be important for passengers too. It will more than halve journey times from some of the stops along the route into central Birmingham."

"This is the start of the conversation about how as a region we can look at new ways of working with Government to use new mechanisms of funding and finance to deliver transformational projects like this."

The seven-mile line will run along part of the former South Staffordshire railway from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill town centre with 17 stops, including at the DY5 Enterprise Zone at the Waterfront, Merry Hill shopping centre, Dudley bus station, and Castle Hill for the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Zoo and Castle.

Construction on the extension is set to start in 2019 with the line opening to passengers in 2023.

Trams will run up to every six minutes during busy periods. Other extensions to Wolverhampton railway station and the planned high-speed 2 station at Curzon Street in Birmingham are also in the pipeline.

The meeting between Mr Street and Mr Grayling was welcomed by both of Dudley's MPs, Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin and Dudley South Tory MP Mike Wood.



Roaring ahead – an artist's impression of the Midland Metro running past the front of Dudley Zoo

## Liquor store closed by concerned police

A SHOP in Kingswinford has been closed due to police concerns over anti-social behaviour.

A closure order was brought against Liquor World, on Bromley Lane, also known as the Convenience Store, after a request by police.

Dudley Council licensing chiefs are now due to decide whether the shop should stay shut.

It is an unusual step for police

to use powers to bring about the immediate closure of a business.

Police said the closure order was brought under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Managers were due to appear before a Dudley Council licensing panel this week.

Police are expected to call for the licence to be revoked but the council could decide to let the

shop re-open but with strict conditions on its licence.

It will be the second time in three years the shop has had its licence reviewed.

Liquor World was subject to a previous inspection in June 2014 when licensing committee members ruled the designated supervisor at the time should be removed and conditions added to the licence.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Leader in 'value for money' pledge

THE new leader of Dudley Council has vowed to 'deliver value for money' for Dudley's council tax payers.

Councillor Patrick Harley said he is working on an action plan looking at delivering services in a different way to 'open up commercial opportunities for the council'.

He said: "Delivering value for money to our residents has to be one of our top priorities and we are confident that through a review of procurement activity we can deliver savings. All councillors will be working to develop our vision for the borough."

### Beach babes are welcome at park

HIMLEY Beach is returning to the Dudley area to bring seaside-style fun for toddlers.

The Under-5s Day in the park grounds of Himley Hall on Friday, June 23, from 10am to 3pm, will also feature baby ballet, a children's maze and fun fair, donkey rides, storytellers, face painting and a mini zoo.

A family ticket is £14 (two adults and two children) or £4 each (£2.50 for under-2s). Parking is free and dogs are not admitted (apart from assistance dogs). For more information call the hall on (01384) 817817.

### Garden opens to help hospice funds

A COUPLE will be opening their garden to the public to raise money for charity on Sunday.

Ron and Anne Kerr are inviting people to look around their garden at 20, Waxland Road, Halesowen on June 25.

Their garden features waterfalls which cascade over rocks down into ponds set within a woodland area.

Money raised from entrance fees and plant sales will be donated to the Mary Stevens Hospice.

### Peak behind scenes at Ashwood nurseries

NURSERY owner and RHS Chelsea gold medalist John Massey is opening his private 'John's Garden' for charity at Ashwood Nurseries on July 2.

It will be open in support of the National Trust's Kinver Edge Centenary Appeal. Volunteers from the Kinver Edge Committee will be in the garden to highlight how the Centenary Appeal will raise funds for the creation of a Centenary Pathway on Kinver Edge National Trust. It will open from 10am to 4pm, £5 admission.

### Grange Hill House fete

A RESIDENTIAL home in Halesowen is holding its summer fete on Sunday.

Grange Hill House Residential Home at Hunnington, B62 0JJ, holds its annual fete on Sunday, June 25, from 2 to 4pm. There will be raffle, bottle tombola, pony rides, refreshments and live music.

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## COUNTY NEWS

### Zero hours staff figure on the up

THE number of zero hour and agency contracted workers has more than doubled in West Midlands since 2011 to 168,000, says the GMB union.

The findings come as the union reveals that up to a third of the workforce is in 'precarious employment'.

Joe Morgan, GMB Regional Secretary said: "Here on our own doorstep in the West Midlands we are witnessing an epidemic of precarious work. Hundreds of thousands go to work either not knowing their hours, if they'll be able to pay the bills, or what their long term prospects are."

### Comedian Duncan chased back home

TV comic Duncan Norvelle, whose catchphrase is 'chase me', is the star of a charity evening to support the Stroke Association.

Midlands-born Duncan was told he would never walk or talk again after being paralysed on his left side following a stroke five years ago. Organiser Katherine Yates, from Brownhills, interviewed the comic on a radio show. A Variety Evening with Duncan Norvelle and Friends is at Solihull's Land Rover Sports on September 15. Tickets are £10 (in advance) from [landroversc.co.uk](http://landroversc.co.uk) website.

### Karate success for sixth form student

A STUDENT has taken gold in the British Karate Federation Home Nations. Lewis Bradbury, sixth form student at Q3 Academy in Great Barr, was awarded the medal in the Under 21 Male Kumite Category at the competition held on May 27 and 28.

He came up against some strong fighters, but defeated them all to take gold. Lewis is in the middle of his final A-Level exams and has got an unconditional offer to study psychology at Coventry University in September.

### Dragonboats' den is at Brindleyplace

BUSINESSES from across the West Midlands are getting ready to take to the canals of Birmingham to play a part in the biggest Brindleyplace Dragonboat Race to date.

Sponsored by Deutsche Bank and now in its 18th year, the annual fundraiser will be aiming to raise more than £100,000 in aid of Cure Leukaemia's £1 million Centre Appeal.

Thousands watch the races from Gas Street Basin to the Barclaycard Arena. See [www.brindleyplace.com](http://www.brindleyplace.com).

### Weston time for tea

AFTERNOON tea experiences are on offer at Weston Park this summer.

Three experiences will take place on August 8, 9 and 10 and be served in the Victorian Orangery. A Taste of Summer is £27.50 per person, or £33.50 per person with a glass of Prosecco and includes admission.

# Police initiative on domestic abuse

A PILOT scheme aimed at supporting children living with domestic abuse has been launched in the Black Country.

The project – part of a national campaign entitled Operation Encompass – sees police working closely with schools. Officers can relay details of overnight incidents to teachers before school gates open the next morning.

It means teachers are better pre-

pared to offer emotional and psychological support for pupils who may have witnessed domestic abuse at home just hours earlier.

Dudley's Chief Inspector Sally Holmes said: "It's really important this kind of information is fed into schools quickly as it means teachers can make decisions in the knowledge that a child may be particularly vulnerable at that time."

"It could be that a child who's witnessed a fight between their parents turns up late for school the next day, forgets their homework, isn't dressed in the correct uniform or is displaying challenging behaviour."

"Teachers might be at a loss to understand their behaviour. This initiative seeks to provide teachers with the context of that behaviour thereby enabling them to provide the most

informed and supportive response to the child's needs."

"I'm confident this move will get early support and intervention to vulnerable children when they need it most."

In the last 12 months – from April 30, 2016 to May 29 this year – there were 1,823 domestic abuse reports at addresses in Dudley where children live

# Great and good are awarded in honours

Report by Simon Stone

**UNSUNG heroes from the Black Country were among the great and the good recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.**

Volunteers and charity workers feature alongside more famous recipients, including Bearwood-raised Julie Walters. The Mamma Mia! and Harry Potter actress was made a Dame.

A British Empire Medal (BEM) went to 80-year-old Marianne Diller for services to the community in Halesowen. Mrs Diller has been chair of the Friends of Leasowes Park group since its inception in 1999.

She said: "It means a great deal to me and it was a lovely surprise."

"I feel very honoured to have been given it and happy to accept it on behalf of all the people who do voluntary work throughout Dudley and particularly for people who help and volunteer with the Friends of Leasowes."

"The park is so beautiful and so important for the area – it's well worth fighting its cause on all sides."

### Birthday

There was an extra special birthday gift for Jenny Jones, founder and manager of Inspired Foundations, who has been given an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) for services to adoption.

Jenny, from Dudley, was named in the honours list on the day she celebrated her 37th birthday. She said: "I feel so honoured someone has taken the time to sit down and fill out an application form to put me forward. It's very weird but an amazing feeling."

Tipton couple Martin and Barbara Hale who have cared for more than 100 foster children over two decades were awarded MBEs.

The couple, who used to live in Dudley, have cared for 126 children since signing up as foster parents back in 1996. Mrs Hale, 64, said they were 'overjoyed' to be recognised for their efforts.

Janice Boswell, 74, from Belbroughton, has also been named as an MBE for voluntary service and services to the community in Bromsgrove..



MBEs for foster carers Martin and Barbara Hale, who have given a home to more than 120 children



Dame Julie Walters, rewarded for services to drama



Jenny Jones, learned of her MBE on her birthday

## Dangerous driver ran red lights in police chase

A RECKLESS teenager from Quarry Bank led police on a car chase in Dudley, driving on the wrong side of the road and running red lights.

Liam Pether, who was seen speeding in a VW Polo, did not have a driving licence or insurance, a judge heard.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how the 18-year-old caught the attention of officers in Peartree Lane, Netherton, driving at speed at 1.45am. The officers followed him.

During the chase, in April, he drove on the opposite side of the road – forcing a taxi driver to swerve to avoid him – and also went the wrong way around a roundabout and ignored red lights.

Pether then abandoned the car and took off on foot but was caught when he was tracked by a police helicopter using body heat detection cameras.

Judge Amjad Nawaz said it was only due to 'good fortune' that Pether avoided injuring himself or other road users. He was sentenced to 16 months in a young offenders institution by the judge last week.

Judge Nawaz told Pether: "You showed a complete disregard for anybody on the road."

Pether, of Coppice Lane, Quarry Bank, was also sentenced for burglary at a house in March, while the occupants were away on holiday. During that raid computers worth around £1,500 had been stolen.

Pether pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and burglary.

## Flats on way to land near station

A TOTAL of 10 flats are set to be built on empty scrubland in Old Hill.

The homes are earmarked for a site on Beauty Bank Road, near to Old Hill railway station.

The site is currently vacant, except for a dense covering of shrubs and trees.

Six two-bedroom and four one-bedroom apartments are proposed to be built over two floors on the site.

Lordswood Construction have submitted the application to build the homes and have stated that the proposal 'would bring many benefits to the site and drastically improve the appearance of the currently vacant and redundant plot'.

Planning bosses will be discussing the application this summer.

## Pub is entertaining at cancer charity night

AN entertainment evening in aid of charity will be held at a Dudley pub.

The Caves Bar and Grill, in Wrens Hill Road, hosts the night in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support on July 22 from 7pm. Donations will be accepted for admission.

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## Public invited to health group AGM

DUDLEY Clinical Commissioning Group is inviting members of the public to attend its annual general meeting.

The meeting takes place in Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Bank Street, on July 6 at 6.30pm.

The group's annual report for 2016-2017 will be available and there will be a series of short presentations on developments during the year.

People planning to attend should confirm attendance by June 30 on 01384 323602 or e-mail Maria.Prosser@dudleyccg.nhs.uk

## Glassworks site set for new flats

A BUILDING that was once part of a historic glassworks could be converted into flats after a planning application has been submitted to Dudley Council.

The site on the Bridge Trading Centre, High Street, Wordsley, which was most recently used as offices, would become nine flats, under the plans.

The building is a surviving part of the old Wordsley Flint Glassworks, which was built in the late 18th century.

The plans will go before Dudley planners this summer.

## Church 24-hour prayer marathon

CHURCH members are being invited to a 24-hour prayer event.

People are asked to sign up to fill one-hour slots, or more, so that St John's Church in Leys Road, Brierley Hill, can pray around the clock from 8am on Thursday, June 29, until 8am the following day.

Prayer stations, music and art materials will be provided and volunteers will be encouraged to pray in a way they find helpful and familiar but also to try new ways of praying.

## Advocacy charity in plea for more helpers

A CHARITY that supports vulnerable adults in the Black Country is in need of more volunteers.

Dudley Advocacy needs support to help people with learning disabilities.

The group works alongside vulnerable people and ensures that their voices are heard. Volunteer advocates support people on a one-to-one basis.

For more information call (01384) 456877 or send an email to info@dudleyadvocacy.org

## Nordic walking session

WOMEN are being welcomed to take part in a free Nordic walking session to mark Women's Sport Week. It will be held at Himley Park, with all equipment provided by West Midlands Nordic Walking club, today (Thursday) at 6.15pm. To book call the organiser, Michael Horton, on 07826 122 887.

# Delight as stolen pug Herbie is found



Herbie is back with his owners now

A PEDIGREE pug stolen from a house in Coven has been reunited with his owners in Hagley.

Herbie was stolen at the end of May from the home of the parents of Herbie's owner. Rachael Wootton, when she and her husband Alex were on holiday in Marbella.

Burglars broke a heavily padlocked gate to the side of Rachael's parents' house near Wolverhampton before smashing through a pane of glass in the conservatory, and then totally removed the back kitchen window to get access.

The family feared they would never see the prized pooch again but then Herbie was handed into a vet's in Somerset and has since been reunited with Rachael and Alex.

A post of Facebook says: "It's true Herbie is home!!! He's been checked over by the vet and he is okay. Thank you so much to each and everyone of you who have taken the time to support us and help Herbie find his way home."

"We could not have done it without you. We're off for Herbie cuddles! Big hugs to you all."

Herbie's return comes as it was revealed that around found five dogs are being stolen every day across the UK.

Research by pet insurance at Direct Line showed a 19 per cent rise of the number of dogs stolen in 2016 compared to 2014, when 1,774 dogs were reported stolen compared with 1,491.

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier was the most stolen breed of dog, with 634 thefts - making up 42 per cent of the total. Breeds such as miniature pugs and chihuahuas, that are popular with celebrities, have also been targeted by thieves.

# 'Outstanding' college is now one of the best

DUDLEY College of Technology has been rated as outstanding by Ofsted - putting it among the very best in the country.

The grading represents a turnaround in fortunes at Dudley College, a decade on from being rated inadequate.

It is the first time it has been given the highest rating by the education watchdog, with the college scoring top marks in seven out of eight categories.

Principal Lowell Williams, who has overseen the rise in standards, said the recognition marked the completion of a 'difficult journey'.

From suffering a long period of decline during the last decade, the college now rivals many of the best in the UK.

Mr Williams took over in 2008 and brought in wholesale changes that has made the college one of the most improved in the country.

The college has embarked on a huge modernising drive in recent years, with the expansion of campuses and the building of Dudley Sixth on Ednam Road.

The last five years have been particularly remarkable for the college. In 2012 it completed and opened the first two phases of the Dudley Learning Quarter and in April 2015 opened Dudley Advance I, specialist centre for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Technology. Work has been taking place on Advance II.

Education bosses are also planning a £30 million university and technical campus for the town.

The college is only one of a handful in the country to be rated as outstanding and the first this year.

Ofsted praised 'outstanding teaching' and a curriculum that 'anticipates regional and national need, leading to highly appropriate training pathways for learners and apprentices'.

### Strategy

Mr Williams said: "Our journey from 'requires improvement' to 'outstanding' has not been easy. It has been a long and difficult road but one that staff and students have travelled together."

"We developed early on a very clear and aspirational strategy for the college, but the real key to our success has been our passionate and highly-motivated staff who have genuinely learned how to pull together as a team."

"We have relentlessly focused on outstanding teaching and learning and the progress and progression of our learners."

The college was rated as outstanding in seven



Dudley College's Advance campus, a major part part of the town centre Learning Quarter

out of eight areas, including teaching, effectiveness of leadership and management and outcomes for students, with the other category - provision for students with high needs - rated as good.

Mr Williams said: "When I joined the college there was a frustrating sense that Dudley's best days were gone, that nothing new and aspirational could ever be achieved in Dudley and that the educational attainment of Dudley young people and adults would always lag behind their counterparts elsewhere in the country."

"But there's absolutely nothing wrong with the ability of young people and adults in the Black Country. Quite the opposite, in fact."

"The staff and students of Dudley College of Technology have proved that with the right sup-

port and challenge they can be the best in the country in whatever they chose to do."

Meanwhile, education leaders are making plans for the University Centre Dudley (UCD), to provide advanced skills training in technology. The site is on Tipton Road, next to the proposed Very Light Rail Innovation Centre at the bottom of Castle Hill.

Mr Williams said the development of the UCD would create a university technical park, providing a route for further training from the college's Advance I and Advance II centres.

Earlier this year he said: "UCD is a logical development. It will provide significant further investment in those all-important high level technical skills needed in our regional economy."

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## Hedgehogs facing a new threat

WE love hedgehogs. Hedgehogs are facing extinction. So why have hedgehog traps been brought into this country from New Zealand?

Hedgehogs are considered vermin in that country because they eat the eggs of ground nesting birds. So does lots of other animals and birds. They have been brought here to kill animals that eat the eggs of pheasants and partridge bred for shooting parties.

I have raised concerns with my MP that these traps are designed to kill hedgehogs and, in his reply, he included a reply from

DEFRA that states that the traps will be laid in such a way that hedgehogs can't get into them. Really! And who is going to officiate over every trap to make sure that hedgehogs cannot obtain entry?

If a hedgehog wants to get anywhere at all, he will get there, they are very determined little animals and that is why he gets himself into so much trouble. We are losing our beloved spiky friend, these traps will be the nail in his coffin.

**JOAN LOCKLEY**  
West Midlands Hedgehog Rescue

## Invest in the future of our youngsters

VERY impressed with incoming Mayor Andy Street and his early focus on doing something about homelessness.

It's shocking to see homelessness growing in the city centre and even in smaller towns like Stourbridge.

Support for under-25s has been cut back too far, and those without the help of family can find themselves in trouble very quickly.

It's all very well having nice shiny new buildings in the city, but if the streets are full of the homeless young, it makes the West Midlands a much less attractive place to live and invest into.

The young are our future and we should invest in them.

**IAN FLYNN**  
Amblecote

## Number plate camera will cause trouble

ALAS Robert Hill has no appreciation of the distress the introduction of number plate cameras to Asda Sedgley will bring.

Community organisations around the car park have grown in response to the needs of the community and rely upon unrestricted parking there for their service users. They have very little parking of their own. Most users will visit the store as part of their visit, as they did when it was owned by Co-op and, before that, Safeway.

Regular community activities, many involving the elderly and disabled, last more than two hours and fines for overstay will hit the careless and unwary. Users have no redress in store, leading to angry confrontations and abuse for Asda staff.

I'm glad Mr Hill has 100 percent confidence in the technology, alas the internet is full of stories where cameras have malfunctioned, particularly when users have used the car park twice in a day.

**MARTIN JONES**  
Sedgley

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### EMAIL

dudley.chrons@  
expressandstar.co.uk

Code of Practice: Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at [www.ipso.co.uk](http://www.ipso.co.uk). If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

## Will highway art be left to rust?

I SENT an email to Dudley Council informing and asking when maintenance is going to be carried out on the artwork on the traffic islands on Dudley Southern Bypass (now Duncan Edwards Way). My email, in particular, was referring to the traffic island at Cinder Bank. There is the workman with his shovel and at the rear, there are the three large triangular steels which are now asking for paint, and a tripod with a flame on the top.

A spokesman stated that

the problem with these artworks is the local authority gets the funding to erect them but there is no budget to maintain any of them.

These artworks have been up 20 years and never had any maintenance. So what's going to happen? Is the council going to let them rust? It doesn't show visitors to the area a very good impression. This may also apply to the island where the cannons are. What are Dudley Council going to do?

**BOB WHITEHOUSE**  
Kingswinford

## Drug users on the streets

THE reaction of readers to my recent letter suggesting that the unnecessarily large number of homeless on our streets is, in many cases, a question of choice, clearly indicates that your correspondents are unaware of the results of a Radio 4 survey among the 'homeless' of Nottingham, which showed that in excess of 90 per cent of people living on the streets were regularly taking drugs.

This reinforces my assertion that they are in receipt of benefits and they choose to spend it on consuming this muck rather than on a night in a hostel.

**B WILLIAMS**  
Wordsley

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# Report calls for closer monitoring of prisoners

**A REPORT** has called for better care of prisoners with mental health problems after release from custody, following the killing of Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins.

An independent investigation found the NHS, police, local authorities and prison service are still letting prisoners on the streets without adequate 'support and supervision'.

That finding has been described as an 'extreme concern' by report authors Niche. It comes more than four years after the 16-year-old Leasowes High School student was stabbed to death on a bus in Birmingham by paranoid schizophrenic Phillip Simelane, weeks after he was released from jail.

The report - which refers to Simelane as 'P' - has made 25 recommendations across the public sector but says 'many of the same' failings highlighted in a previous NHS investigation in 2014 are still ongoing. These include failures to share information about people with mental health problems and assess their needs properly.

## Criticised

The latest report has been criticised by Christina's family who said reading the report had been 'extremely hard' and 're-opened wounds'.

In statement, they said: "What makes it even harder for us is hearing and reading continuously that 'lessons need to be learned' whilst knowing that in reality very few lessons have been learned and, over time, little has actually changed."

Simelane, who had lived in Sandwell and Walsall, stabbed Christina on the number 9 bus on the morning of March 7, 2013. He had a history of violence, including making threats to murder. He had been released from HMP Birmingham on December 13



Christina Edkins - report into her death concludes that the public are still at risk



Phillip Simelane - systemic failures within multiple services, says report

but healthcare bosses did not know that he was leaving prison.

He admitted manslaughter and was detained under the Mental Health Act in October 2013.

The report states: "The largest concern shared by all on the investigation panel and many of the people we interviewed was that despite these efforts, the challenges to ensure appropriate aftercare on release for prisoners with mental health problems remain."

"If we were able to make just one recommendation to improve services and reduce the likelihood of such a tragic case happening again, it would be that national services concerned strenuously work together to improve the care and aftercare of prisoners with mental problems."

"Despite this we also want to recognise, not just the individual service efforts made to address the findings

of the initial investigation report, but also the other wider changes made to services across the West Midlands that we hope will lead to earlier detection and access to more appropriate and timely intervention for offenders with mental health problems."

Nick Moor, director of Niche, said: "It was evident that over time there had been systemic failures within multiple services and by some professionals to correctly assess and identify P's increasing risk of dangerousness."

"This was compounded by other factors. P concealed and denied his mental health problems when assessed. Many of the services in contact with P failed to obtain and review other information in order to build a more comprehensive picture. This led to a failure to properly assess and meet his needs."

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# Patient in £9,000 payout after front tooth ordeal

A WOMAN has been awarded £9,000 compensation after dental treatment left her needing surgery.

Emma Hill, aged 42, says she has been told she will lose her front tooth in the future as a result of the work at a Stourbridge dentist.

The charity shop worker underwent root canal treatment for swelling around her front tooth. The work was carried out by her dentist Dr Ollie Smart at South Road Dental Practice. He has since left the practice.

## Jeff finishes epic walk for cancer charity

TELEVISION presenter Jeff Stelling has completed the epic walking challenge which saw him visit Kidderminster Harriers' Aggborough stadium.

Stelling teamed up with Prostate Cancer UK for the 400-mile tour.

The final stretch saw him head towards Newcastle United's St James' Park, a fortnight after setting off from Exeter City's St James Park.

Stelling is on course to hit his £500,000 target once funds are combined after the event.

He walked 15 marathons in 15 days from the home of the Grecians to the home of the Magpies – and he was joined by around 650 walkers during his unforgettable amble.

The star stopped at Kidderminster Harriers' Aggborough stadium, in Wyre Forest, before setting off for Shrewsbury Town in Shropshire on the fourth day of his walk.

To support Stelling or find out more about his epic challenge visit prostatecanceruk.org/jeffsmarch

After being left in pain she said she was told she needed to have surgery in hospital to have the root removed and sealed with a filling.

Mrs Hill, of Netherton, said: "I was rather confused because Dr Smart was supposed to have fixed the problem with my tooth. The surgical procedure wasn't a pleasant experience to say the least. I was left with stitches in my mouth. It was painful and distressing."

Mrs Hill said she had been told the tooth had been so badly damaged it will need to be extracted.

She said: "This is the most upsetting part of the ordeal. Nobody wants to lose their front tooth. It already feels loose so I doubt it will be long until it needs to be extracted. It will then need to be replaced with an implant which will mean yet more trips to the dentist."

She decided to take action and contacted the Dental Law Partnership, which claimed Dr Smart had failed to use reasonable skill and care when undertaking the procedure.

The case was settled out of court when the dentist agreed to pay £9,000. The dentist did not admit liability.

Dr Smart said: "It is unfortunate that the treatment provided on this occasion did not go as well as we had both hoped. I am limited in what I can say because of patient confidentiality. I am pleased the matter has been brought to a satisfactory conclusion."

## Dancers soldier on for festival showcase



Dancer Harriet Ellis gets a lift from soldiers during her Army training on manoeuvres in Scotland

A DANCER got into camouflage gear and had a taste of life in the Army ahead of a festival performance.

Harriet Ellis, of Stourbridge, is to take to the stage in 5 Soldiers at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and has taken part in a range of combat exercises with the Army to prepare for the role. The dance production is set to take to the stage in August.

Joining the exercise allowed Harriet to get experience of life in the Army, the training and the camaraderie.

She said: "Women are taking an ev-

er-more prominent role in the Army and on the frontline and I think it's important to look at the new opportunities that are opening up, and the challenges that can bring."

"It has really helped me understand what our soldiers go through. We've learned something about what it's like to be in a forward base in a war zone, to be part of an ambush, to encounter a roadside bomb, and what happens when they come under artillery fire."

Harriet is the sole female member in the quintet cast of 5 Soldiers and

her fellow dancers joined her on three days of combat exercises with the Army, deep in the Scottish countryside. They discovered what it was like to be out on patrol and also saw a live fire exercise involving machine guns and grenades.

Captain Edward Mitchell, who helped look after the dancers, said: "This was an ideal opportunity for the dancers to see what soldiering is about." Following its Fringe run, the show will embark on a tour including Birmingham Rep.

## Terror probe as man with knives held

A MAN armed with knives and an axe was arrested by counter terror police outside Kidderminster's army reserve base.

West Midlands counter-terror chiefs are investigating after the 23-year-old man was arrested on Sunday night. Police said there was no suggestion at this stage the reserve centre, in Birmingham Road, was under threat.

The suspect was in custody as the investigation continues.

The incident came just hours before a car was driven into worshippers outside a mosque in the Finsbury Park area of London.

Martin Evans, Assistant Chief Constable at West Mercia Police, said: "On identifying the man our officers took prompt action to contain the threat and take him into custody."

"At this time we believe the suspect was acting alone and we are not looking for anyone else in connection with the incident."

"I would urge people not to speculate on what has happened. As I am sure you will appreciate, this is an extremely sensitive investigation but I can assure you that we will make information available as and when it is appropriate."

"In the meantime, we will have additional officers on patrol in Kidderminster to provide reassurance to our communities."

## Police witness plea after a cyclist dies

POLICE have launched an appeal for witnesses after a fatal crash involving a cyclist near Halesowen.

West Mercia Police want people to come forward after the incident which led to the cyclist's death.

The accident occurred at around 7.40am on Thursday on the Bromsgrove Road in Romsley.

Officers believe a Corsa travelling from Poplar Lane and a Ford Transit were involved in the crash. Call 101.

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# Drug crook's luxurious lifestyle leads to prison

IT was a sophisticated cocaine racket that stretched from a car park in Kingswinford to Albanian gangsters in London, via a luxury flat in Oxford.

Fourteen men have now been jailed when police smashed the criminal enterprise involving drugs, guns and huge piles of cash after six months of undercover operations. They recovered more than £500,000 in banknotes.

Police have revealed the luxurious lifestyle of the crook who ran the operation. Khalad Uddin was the fixer, a link man between criminals across the country. Last week he was jailed for 16 years at Birmingham Crown Court.

## Conspiracy

The 35-year-old, of Little Brewery Street, St Clements, Oxford, pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to two counts of conspiracy to supply cocaine and one count of money laundering. The sentence will run concurrently with a 14 year sentence handed to Uddin earlier this month for his involvement in a conspiracy to transfer firearms and ammunition.

Much of the conspiracy centred on five men based in Kingswinford who flooded the streets with the class-A drug at a huge profit.

Uddin and the other men were trading large amounts of cocaine across the country and profiting from the sale of drugs in the Thames Valley, West Midlands and the South West. Officers seized more than 10 kilos of cocaine and recovered £560,000 cash.

Michael Palmer, aged 29, of Newman Road, Tipton, pleaded guilty to one count of money laundering, one count of possession of an offensive weapon, and one count of conspiracy to supply drugs at a hearing at Birmingham Crown Court on May 30. He was



Piles of cash recovered from Khalad Uddin's luxury home in Oxford

acquitted of one count of money laundering and one count of possession of an offensive weapon. He was sentenced to four years and 11 months prison at Birmingham Crown Court. Palmer had played a lesser role as a courier.

The convictions follow an extensive investigation by Thames Valley Police's Serious and Organised Crime Unit working with West Midlands Regional Organised Crime Unit, and support from West Mercia, Avon & Somerset and the Metropolitan Police.

Detective Chief Inspector Bruce Riddell said: "Uddin was one of the key players. He was living a lavish lifestyle, spending over £62,000 on renting fast cars, and expensive properties. When officers inspected Uddin's properties they recovered significant amounts of cash, anti-surveillance equipment, high value jewellery, 70 pairs of designer jeans and a 10 tonne hydraulic press used in the production of drugs. Uddin also arranged the purchase of two handguns."

"During this investigation officers seized over half a million pounds in cash, one of the biggest cash hauls Thames Valley Police has recovered."

Twelve other men convicted for conspiracy to supply cocaine all pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing and were sentenced last month.



Drug gang fixer Khalad Uddin has swapped his luxury home for a cell

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**FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL**



## FOCUS ON DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE

# Call for crossing as part of plan for £12m casino site

A £27.8 million light rail innovation centre, which could create more than 200 jobs, will not prevent nationwide train services running from Dudley in the future, says a planning boss.

UKIP's Councillor Paul Brothwood said he feared the creation of the centre could hinder Dudley's chances of having improved rail services by using a vital section of track.

The centre, which was given the green light last year, needs more funding.

Planning chief Councillor Ian Kettle said: "We have also received assurances that the test track will not prevent the provision of future heavy rail passenger services on the line, although Transport for West Midlands have no plans to bring passenger services back to the area in the foreseeable future."

## Survey bat behaviour

DUDLEY Zoo staff joined conservation group, Brum-Bats, to survey wild bats across the 40-acre site.

The group, also known as Birmingham and Black Country Bat Group, spent two hours surveying in and around two caverns. Zoo conservation officer Chris Leeson said: "We started just before sunset and using the group's specialist bat detecting equipment, which used sound frequencies, we were able to pinpoint various species."

**A COMPANY behind plans to move a casino and bingo hall to a Dudley leisure park have been told a new pedestrian crossing is needed as part of the scheme.**

Planning officers at Dudley Council say that changes are needed to make the proposed site at Castlegate Park more accessible for pedestrians.

Castle Casino, currently on Castle Hill, will relaunch as Casino 36 on the leisure site, as part of a £12 million investment that was announced in May.

An artist's impression show a two-storey building, which will operate as both a casino and bingo hall on separate floors.

The entertainment complex is expected to open next year but has hit a potential obstacle with highways experts not happy with the current layout around the site. They said there was no footpath near to the casino location and that would likely need to be rectified if the development was to go ahead.

Casino 36 has also been advised to look again at the plans to include improvements to surrounding roads.

But a casino boss says they would be happy to hold discussions with roads experts about any potential changes to the plans.

A report from Dudley

Council's highways team said: "The proposal should look further into the connectivity of pedestrians into the site and potential crossing facilities."

"The link from Birmingham Road is poor, there is a bus stop but no footpath on the development side, which has not been proposed as part of a new development outside of the application site. This should be looked into and provided as this lack of footway compromises this development in terms of accessibility and makes it more reliant on access by vehicles."

Craig Dobson, general manager at Casino 36, said: "It is very early days. There are a few things like pedestrian crossings which I can't see being a problem. I don't think I've done a project where the roads team haven't had something to say."

By Richard Guttridge



Artist's impression of the new casino and bingo hall, part of a £12m investment at Dudley's Castlegate Park

## Fantastic four join team at zoo

ZOO keepers of the future have begun their training at Dudley Zoo.

Four new recruits have been taken on under the zoo's apprenticeship scheme.

Dudley Zoo has joined forces with training provider Keits to deliver the programme, which is helping the young apprentices to learn to care for exotic animals.

The apprentices, who all answered an advert on the zoo's website, have been placed on each of the zoo's animal sections, where they work a five-day week as part of a level two diploma in work based animal care.

The apprentices are Courtney Jones, aged 19, from Coleley, Harry Upton, aged 20, from Hale-sowen, Jessica Edwards, aged 22, from Bedworth, and Mary Taylor, aged 16, from Stourbridge.

## Movie night in courtyard

AN open-air cinema will screen cult horror-comedy movie *An American Werewolf In London* at Dudley Castle on August 5.

Last year's inaugural Dudley Castle After Dark event was a huge success with more than 600 people attending a screening of *The Bride of Frankenstein* in the courtyard. Tickets are £10 (£8 concessions) for the 8pm screening, see [www.flatpackfestival.org.uk/event/americ-were-wolf-in-dudley/](http://www.flatpackfestival.org.uk/event/americ-were-wolf-in-dudley/)

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# Journey back to roaring 40s at museum

A MUSEUM is taking people on a nostalgic journey back to wartime Britain.

The Black Country Living Museum is hosting its largest ever 1940s Weekend on July 15 and 16.

For an entire weekend, the museum will be transformed as vintage vehicles, 40s civilians, army personnel,

and the sound of air raid sirens fill the streets.

The event is set across the museum's award-winning 26 acres of recreated period houses and shops off Tipton Road. This year features a wider range of food and drink – including a GI bar serving American style food and a gin bar serving vintage cocktails.

Jane Allcock, events coordinator at the museum, said: "This year we've pulled out all of the stops. We want visitors to feel from the minute that they step into the museum that they have stepped back in time."

Visit [belm.com/40s](http://belm.com/40s) or call 0121 520 8054 for more information or to book tickets.

# Driving ban for a queue-jumper who drove into marshal

## Armed Forces Day duo



The Lands Girls prepare for Armed Forces Day 2017 at Himley Hall and Park

TWO award-winning singers will perform a medley of Second World War classics at this year's Armed Forces Day.

The annual free event to celebrate the work and bravery of those who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces is at Himley Hall on and Park on Sunday from 11am to 5pm.

Bringing the event to a close will be The Land Girls, a singing duo from Wall Heath, who will perform their 1940s songs in the main arena, encouraging audience members to sing along.

The annual event, held in associ-

ation with Black Country Housing Group, promises to be bigger and better than ever with a fantastic line up in store for visitors.

Topping the bill will be a spitfire flypast by the RAF Battle of Britain Flight Memorial team at 11.45am and the HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge presentation in the afternoon.

In the main arena, visitors can watch Beating Retreat, which will bring together marching bands, standard bearers and serving personnel from the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force for a military tradition dating back centuries.

A SHORT-TEMPERED motorist from Stourbridge who deliberately drove into a traffic marshal while queue jumping at a car boot sale exit has been given a suspended prison sentence and a driving ban.

Martin Wiggan was not prepared to wait as traffic backed up at the exit of the event in Wombourne, Stafford Crown Court heard.

The 48-year-old pulled out of the queue of traffic and drove along the empty entrance way at Bridgnorth Road, said Mr Nigel Booth, prosecuting. But after a short distance he found his path blocked by Todd Turley, who was directing traffic dressed in a high-vis jacket. Wiggan was forced to stop and hurled abuse at the marshal who stood his ground.

The irate motorist then slowly moved his car forward in an unsuccessful attempt to force Mr Turley out of the way, continued Mr Booth.

When Wiggan repeated the dangerous manoeuvre the victim ended up sprawled across the bonnet of the Vauxhall and appeared to aim a punch at the windscreen. A woman passenger in the car used her mobile to call police and report the incident, which happened in May 2015 and was captured on the dash board camera.

### Impact

Mr Booth explained: "He had been with his girlfriend in a queue but became tired of waiting and switched to the empty entrance lane in the middle of which stood a man in a yellow high vis jacket who forced him to stop. There was an impact between the front of the vehicle and the man. The man later complained of an injury but the prosecution say there is insufficient evidence."

An allegation of causing serious injury by dangerous driving was discontinued and replaced by a charge of dangerous driving, which Wiggan admitted on Thursday.

Miss Rachel Pennington, defending, said: "The dash board cam showed the man walking around and crouching down to get through a fence, displaying no sign of an injury after the incident."

The defendant accepts that he behaved stupidly in his haste to get out of the car park and regrets what happened."

Wiggan from Hilltop, Stourbridge was given a two-month prison sentence suspended for 12 months with £300 costs and banned from driving for 18 months

# Hospice in call for more help from volunteers

MARY Stevens Hospice, in Stourbridge, is appealing for more volunteers.

They are asking for help from people who might be able to spare even just a couple of hours a year to help at their events.

An open evening will be held at the Hagley Road Hospice on July 13, to welcome members of the public and invite them to find out more about the help required in order to put on events which raise the money for the charity.

During the open evening visitors can drop in at any time between 6pm and 9pm with presentations from the

fundraising team scheduled at 6pm and 7.30pm.

Laura Millard, in charge of event volunteer liaison at the hospice, said: "We're so privileged to have the support of fantastic individuals and organisations who make our events possible."

"However, our events are getting bigger and bigger, and, to be perfectly honest, we're now at the point where we really could do with a few extra pairs of hands."

To find out more about the drop-in evening, visit the website at [www.marystevenshospice.co.uk](http://www.marystevenshospice.co.uk) or call (01384) 377778.

# Art contest is inspired by mental health

DUDLEY and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust (DWMH) is hosting the Dawn Jones Art Prize for its 12th year.

The competition invites people with experience of mental health conditions – whether that's personal experience or as a carer, friend, relative or employee of a mental health organisation – to create inspiring artwork.

The competition was set up by Maureen Jones in memory of her daughter, Dawn Jones, who tragically committed suicide in 2005 at the age of 25 following a long battle with depression.

The competition aims to offer people with experience of mental health conditions the opportunity to express themselves and create meaningful artwork. It also aims to raise awareness of mental health issues and help reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.

People can enter one piece of artwork in the categories of 'What makes me happy' and 'What I am hopeful for'. Entries should be submitted by July 31 for a chance to win a prize of £100 in vouchers and to have the work displayed. The full competition guidelines are at [www.dwmh.nhs.uk/artprize](http://www.dwmh.nhs.uk/artprize)

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How the crash was reported in the Express & Star on May 18, 1945, with a horrific picture showing the extent of the damage



A Lancaster bomber, which was a regular sight in the skies during the war, although the tragic accident, which killed seven people, came just nine days after VE Day



Gordon Rabbetts, Vincent Southworth, John Sills, Reginald Smith, Bernard Hall and Victor Meade were all killed in the crash



The pub, which is now called The Lancaster, when it was The Albion, situated in Lichfield Road, Wednesfield

# Pub's tribute to airmen killed in wartime crash

A PUB in Wolverhampton is to change its name in tribute to seven airmen killed in a horror air crash in the city – just days after the end of the Second World War was declared.

The Albion pub in Wednesfield has been closed for a complete re-vamp and reopened on Wednesday under its new name, The Lancaster, recalling the crash of a bomber plane nearby which saw all on board perish.

The Lancaster had been on a routine flight when it began losing altitude and crashed on Lichfield Road on May 17, 1945. The tragic accident, just nine days after VE Day, left a five-foot crater with wreckage spread over two miles. The airmen on board, none of whom were over 24, are thought to be the only servicemen killed in Wolverhampton during the Second World War. After the crash, the wreckage

## MEMORY LANE

By Marion Brennan

and remains of the crew, all from East Kirkby, Lincolnshire, were bulldozed into the crater and a local minister performed a simple funeral ceremony.

Some regulars have questioned the name change on Facebook. One said: "It will always be known as the Albion. Even years ago when it changed to the Harvester, people still called it the Albion."

### Remembrance

On the 70th anniversary of the crash two years ago, the Wednesfield Historical Society and the town's St Thomas's Church organised a remembrance service. A campaign was also launched to secure funding for a permanent memorial at the site.

The names of the airmen that died were Ronnie O'Donnell, John Sills, Bernard Hall, Victor Meade, Gordon Rabbetts, Reginald Smith and Vincent

Southworth. The bomber came from Lincolnshire on a routine training flight before it crashed to the ground. The Express & Star covered the crash with eyewitness accounts of the crash and a picture showing firefighters spraying water into the smouldering crater.

In the article, Express & Star driver Joe Castree said: "It passed right over me and there seemed to be two explosions in the air before the crash."

"I ran to the spot immediately but it was impossible for me to do anything as there was just a lot of wreckage scattered over a wide area and no signs of any members of the crew."

"Bullets were exploding and flares were going off."

Another eye witness believed the crew may have sacrificed their lives to avoid killing children playing on the King George playing field, where the plane could have landed.

As the Lancaster went down four bricklayers on the road some distance away were blown to the ground and had to be treated for shock.



Ronald O'Donnell, one of the crew members killed – none of whom were aged older than 24

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# Stay independent with help to get your home adapted

## Commercial feature

### Dudley Council is offering help to Dudley borough residents who need to adapt their homes to better meet their needs.

Anyone who is struggling with daily life in their home can ask for help. If a member of the household of any age is having difficulties bathing, getting upstairs, even getting into the home, help is on offer to adapt the property to better meet these needs.

Dudley Home Improvement Service, part of Dudley Council, offers the adaptations package. Grants are available to pay for adaptations, along with an adaptations package of advice and practical support. This consists of an expert recommendation, support to design and build the adaptation from technical officers and council approved builders. All work is overseen by the council, so there is no hassle and no stress to people.

Home adaptations for independence are available to people who own their own homes or are private rental tenants. Council tenants can already request adaptations to their homes through the council. The aim is to help people stay independent in their homes. Typical adaptations include handrails, stair rails, ramps, level access showers, stair lifts, through-the-floor lifts, even home extensions to provide extra sleeping or bathing facilities.

An initial assessment by an occupational therapist will take place and this will establish the type of adaptation needed to suit a



Anyone who is struggling should ask for help from the adaptations service

person's needs and to help them stay independent and safe in their home.

The service offers adaptations to people of any age. Full grant funding is always provided for adaptations needed for children under 18.

Alan Lunt, Dudley Council's strategic director of place said: "Anyone who is finding it difficult to manage in their home, or has a member of their

household who is struggling should ask for help from the adaptations service. Lots of support is on offer, along with grant funding to pay for home adaptations for many people. It's all about keeping people safe and independent in their homes and making life more liveable."

Contact Dudley Home Improvement Service on 0300 555 0055.

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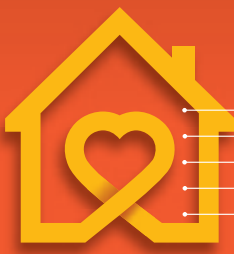
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## Victorian loco to attend gala

ONE of the Victorian steam locomotives from the Ffestiniog Railway in North Wales is to visit the Severn Valley Railway for its autumn steam gala.

No 2 Prince will run on a narrow gauge track at The Engine House, Highley, near Bridgnorth, during the event from September 21 to 24.

Steam trains will be running all night on the preserved line from Bridgnorth to Kidderminster on the Friday and Saturday.

Other visiting locomotives include No 926 Repton from North Yorkshire Moors Railway, No 564 – Great Eastern Railway Y14 and No 323 Bluebell from the Bluebell Railway.

# GB cycling's 'culture of fear' exposed by the Phelps report

**THE much-delayed report into claims of bullying and discrimination with the Great Britain cycling team has strongly criticised British Cycling's board, former technical director Shane Sutton and funding agency UK Sport.**

Based on more than 100 contributions from current and former riders and staff, the independent report says a 'culture of fear' existed within the team.

It also says 'good governance was lacking' at

British Cycling and Sutton operated within a 'power pocket' without real oversight.

Written by a five-strong panel led by British Rowing chair Annamarie Phelps, the report was commissioned 14 months ago following allegations made by ex-GB track sprinter Jess Varnish, from Halesowen, and several other former riders.

The report's language, and some of its conclusions, are significantly diluted from a more damning draft that was written at the end of February. That draft, which Press Association Sport has seen, was leaked to the Daily Mail in

March and accused the British Cycling board of being "dysfunctional", "inept" and effectively covering up an internal investigation into Varnish's claims last year.

That section in the final report is much altered, although the central message is still that the panel believes the board mishandled the case. This will disappoint Varnish's camp, which has already started legal action to obtain more information about why she was dramatically cut from the GB squad last April.

British Cycling can say it has started to implement all Phelps' recommendations for change.

## Celebrating 70 years of song

A SPECIAL concert is taking place next month to celebrate a singing group's 70th anniversary.

Penn Singers is holding its 70th anniversary concert on July 15 at Penn United Reformed Church, on Penn Road, Wolverhampton, from 7.30pm.

The concert will feature the Jackfield 10-piece band. Tickets cost £8.50.

The choir of around 70 members is also recruiting a new musical director later this year.

The group rehearse every Monday evening at the church and is looking for an experienced director with good singing technique and teaching skills to join them.

For more information on the concert, call 01902 652 992 or visit [www.pennsingers.org.uk](http://www.pennsingers.org.uk) website.

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## Vintage cars go on show



Jim Thomas from Dudley with his 1925 Bean car at the Black Country Living Museum

HUNDREDS of enthusiasts motored to one of the region's top venues for a display of vintage vehicles.

The Black Country Living Museum, in Tipton Road, Dudley hosted the Festival of Black Country Vehicles.

The event, which is in its 15th year, celebrated the Black Country's history as a major centre for vehicle manufacturing – and has become one of the most popular days in the museum's calendar.

Visitors had the chance to chat to the vehicles' owners, and also saw the museum's bus, trolley bus and tram collection in action. All vehicles on show were built in the Black Country – with some more than 100 years old.

Regional classic car brands at the festival included Austin, Bean, Clyno, Jensen, Lomax, Quantum, Rickman, Star, Sun-

beam, Swallow, Turner and Westfield.

Meanwhile, classic car enthusiasts will be in their element next month when Stourbridge pre-war car club is holding its 50th anniversary open day.

The free event on July 15 is from 11am to 4.30pm at the Bonded Warehouse, Canal Street, Stourbridge.

The display will feature more than 28 historic cars dating from the 1920s to the 1970s.

Music, food and drink stalls will be available throughout the day as visitors take a look at some of the vehicles on offer.

The car club began in 1967 and now boasts more than 100 members.

The club meets every Thursday from 8pm at The Kinner Community Centre, Edward Marsh Centre, based on Legion Drive, High Street, Kinner.

## Bypass bridge work put back by a week

WORK on Bridgnorth's bypass bridge has been put back a week so as not to fall at the same time as the closure of a main trunk road in Shropshire.

Improvement work on the A458 Bridgnorth over the River Severn is now due to start on July 11, seven days later than originally planned.

The move has been made in an attempt to minimise traffic disruption as the A49 through south Shropshire is due to be closed completely from July 1 to July 10 – and the proposed diversion is through Bridgnorth and the A458.

The A49 closure is due to Network Rail undertaking work to completely rebuild the level crossing at Onibury, between Ludlow and Craven Arms.

The work on the A458, and the roundabout approaches between the B4373 junction and the Stourbridge Road roundabout, are due to finish by November 10.

## Biggest toy fair at NEC

BRITAIN'S biggest toy fair will arrive in Birmingham this summer.

The Toy Collectors fair is taking place at the NEC on August 20.

There will be 550 stands filled with all kinds of collectables for sale from the UK's leading dealers.

Prices can start from just £1 for an action figure up to several hundred pounds for rare 1950s Dinky Toys.

Items range from TV and film collectables to teddy bears.

Tickets start from £6.50

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# 20 Volunteers are celebrating long service at shop

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, June 22, 2017

TWO volunteers have been celebrated a quarter of a century of service at a charity shop.

On May 11 1992, the Mary Stevens Hospice Group opened its very first charity shop in Stourbridge's Victoria Passage, the first of a further 22 that would be opened across the West Midlands.

Throughout that time, Audrey Smith and Sybil Taylor have been ever-present volunteers in the Victoria Passage shop, and have been celebrated for their service over the last quarter of a century.

The anniversary was marked with a party in the shop and free hot drinks and cake were on offer to the local community, as a thank you for the support the outlet has received over the past two and a half decades.

Tributes were also paid at length to Sybil and Audrey, who received flowers and had the honour of cutting the specially-made cake on the day.

Speaking about why the shop had been able to thrive over the past 25 years, Sybil said: "It's a social point. We have regulars here who we've been seeing and serving for years.

"My friend Beryl from school still pops in because she knows I'll be here for a chat, and that's more than 50 years after we met."

Audrey added: "Guy, the shop manager, makes a good cup of tea as well."

## Historian strikes it lucky in contest

AN avid historian has won a competition with his discussion on the impact of the 1926 General Strike in the Black Country.

David Taylor, who lives in Wombourne, thoroughly researched and explored the strike for the Local History Symposium, held by Wolverhampton City Archives.

Mr Taylor said he was 'really pleased' about winning and hopes he can further his research with the help of his £250 prize handed over by Express & Star Editor Keith Harrison.

Mr Taylor said: "I'm very interested in history, particularly local history."



Part of exhibition – Port after Stormy Seas, 1905



Some of the ceramics on display



Cassandra and Helen of Troy, 1898



Part of display – The Prisoner, 1907



In the Malthouse Gallery – Night and Sleep, 1878



The De Morgan Collection on display in the Malthouse Gallery

# 70 years on and art dazzles

**AN offer to rescue an internationally-valued art collection has been accepted 70 years after it was originally made.**

The result is now on show at Wightwick Manor's £170,000 new gallery. The De Morgan collection of paintings and ceramics has twice been homeless.

The initial offer to provide a home at Wightwick for the elegant and richly coloured paintings and ceramics came as the clouds of war gathered over England in the late 1930s.

It was made by Sir Geoffrey Mander who, as well as being a Liberal MP for Wolverhampton and head of the family's paint and varnish empire, was also a highly respected patron of the arts.

He and second wife Rosalie had filled their Victorian manor home with paintings, furniture and art objects. The Manders were admirers of the work of William and Evelyn De Morgan, among the arts and crafts movement's leading lights, and offered to save the collection from potential destruction by Nazi bombs in the expected blitz on London.

By that time the couple's style was considered too 'chocolate-boxy' for the modernist tastes of the inter-war period.

As it turned out, a secure wartime location had already been found for the collection but the offer to give it refuge had been appreciated and the two families became friends.

The latest offer of help came after Wardsworth Council declined to renew the lease on the dedicated centre in London where the collection was displayed until 2011. Wightwick Manor stepped forward again and this time its offer was accepted.

The collection is considered the most valuable anywhere of works created by studio ceramicist William De Morgan and paintings by his pioneering wife, Evelyn.

He worked with legendary wallpaper and fabric designer William Morris, supplying Morris & Co with iconic red lustre tiles and decorative ceramics.

She studied art at the Slade School and developed a vivid technique in the later Pre-Raphaelite style.

Together they were regarded as the Victorian era's most creative couple.

Their work will be housed for the next 10 years in the upper gallery of the Malthouse, previously a school-room for the Mander children and later a squash court.

The house, built by the millionaire industrialist's father, Theodore Mander, has been run since 1937 by the National Trust.

Six weeks after the exhibition opening, hundreds of people have already been to see the collection.

John Wood, the conservation and development manager for the house, said: "The feedback has been amazing. People love it."

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## Troubled bar has been sold

A TROUBLED bar shut down by police has been sold, raising hopes it could be redeveloped.

The Triple S bar, formerly The Talbot pub, in Tipton, is in new hands having stood empty for almost two years.

Plans to turn it into flats had been in the pipeline prior to its sale.

Police took action following a string of violent incidents at the venue, including an attack which left a man in a coma.

Following a period of uncertainty, it has now been confirmed that the Bradleys Lane bar has been sold. Details of the buyer and sale price have not been revealed.

Triple S had been due to be offered at an auction earlier this year for £110,000.

Experts have said the building would be suitable for a number of alternative uses, with turning it into flats seemingly the most likely. An application to convert it into three flats last year was withdrawn.

# More jobless in region as wages lag behind inflation

**WAGES are falling further behind inflation with the pay gap getting bigger and more pressure piling on family finances across the UK.**

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said, after inflation, wages were down 0.6 per cent between February and April.

The day after the ONS revealed consumer price inflation had jumped to 2.9 per cent, it said wages – not including bonuses – were up just 1.7 per cent. But unemployment nationwide is at its lowest in more than a decade. The ONS said almost 32 million people are in work – 372,000 more than a year ago and the highest total since records began in 1971.

Unemployment fell by 50,000 between February and April, to 1.53 million, the lowest for more than a decade. However, in the West Midlands unemployment rose by 6,000 to 166,000 in the three months to April.

The figures for May show the number of people claiming benefits in the region fell. UK-wide the number of people on the claimant count was up for the third month in a row in May, to stand at 802,600. Across the Black Country and Staffordshire the figures fell.

In the region as a whole, the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance and other unemployment-related benefits was down by 1,415 in May to 87,645.

In Wolverhampton the claimant count fell by

185 to 6,915, a rate of 4.3 per cent. In Dudley it was down by 95 to 5,830, three per cent, and in Sandwell it fell by 100 to 7,235 or 3.6 per cent. In Walsall the number was down by 55 to 5,040, or three per cent.

In South Staffordshire it fell 25 to 765, or 1.1 per cent, and in Stafford it was down by five to 785, one per cent.

Matt Hughes, senior statistician at the ONS, said: "Many labour market indicators remain strong, with the employment rate at a joint record high and the inactivity rate at a joint record low. On the other hand, with wage growth continuing to slow and inflation still rising, real pay is down on the year. This is now the case whether or not bonuses are taken into account."

## Call to catch car park yobs

AN MEP has called for a crackdown on anti-social behaviour at a car park in Sedgley, asking for police and Dudley Council to investigate.

Bill Etheridge, West Midlands UKIP Euro MP and a Sedgley councillor, says there has been a spike in 'unsavoury incidents' in the Bilston Street car park.

He has contacted the police and council to report evidence of drug abuse and damage. It comes after arson attacks on a vacant council office near the car park.

Mr Etheridge said: "Dudley Council needs to take back control of this situation. Residents have been reporting it to me, also users of the car park. Left unchecked, this will have adverse effect on the profitability of local retailers. I'm calling on the council to utilise the CCTV that is in place so that these drug using drivers can be caught."

## Youngsters in museum movie



Ben Avery, Cameron Hay as Duncan and Ella George at Black Country Living Museum

A FORTHCOMING film about Dudley-born football hero Duncan Edwards will give older generations the chance to reminisce.

But it has also provided a huge opportunity for some of the region's aspiring actors and actresses who have been cast in key roles.

They were recently at the Black Country Living Museum where scenes set in 1940s Dudley were being shot.

The film named The Boy Who Had It All will focus on the Manchester United star's childhood in the town.

Inspiring the current crop of youngsters from the Black Country to chase their dreams is a big motivation for filmmaker Marcus Distant.

Among the young cast members is 11-year-old Ben Avery from Oldbury who plays a childhood friend of Duncan's named

Thomas. Ben, said: "I didn't know that much about Duncan Edwards before we started filming. My parents knew a bit about him. But now that I'm in the part I know a bit more. It has been a great experience."

Cast in the role of Molly Leech is 13-year-old Ella George from Burntwood.

She said: "My dad plays a lot of football so he told me a bit about England and the Busby Babes."

"My character is very hard. Very much a tomboy. She spits on her hands and is very boyish."

The finished film will be between 10 to 13 minutes long and has been made a reality thanks to a crowdfunding campaign which raised £5,000.

In the role of Duncan is Cameron Hay, 13, from Bedworth.

## Three arrests made in £440m fraud probe

THREE people from the West Midlands have been arrested as part of a major investigation by UK and French authorities into a suspected £440 million alcohol fraud and money-laundering racket.

More than 100 HMRC officers, together with officials from the National Customs Judicial Service and police, raided homes and businesses across the UK.

Addresses in Wolverhampton and Stourbridge were among those involved. A 44-year-old man and 38-year-old woman from Wolverhampton were arrested, along with a 38-year-old man from Stourbridge.

Searches were also carried out in Birmingham, London and Surrey where three other men, aged 42, 41 and 33, were arrested. The raids were carried out on Thursday.

Computers, business records and cash were seized during the operation aimed at smashing suspected large-scale fraud and money laundering.

## Knight out with Gladys

SOUL singer Gladys Knight has announced a concert in Birmingham next month.

Following on from sell-out shows last year, the Empress Of Soul will play Symphony Hall on Sunday, July 2.

The 73-year-old former Motown star, who had hits in the 1960s, '70s and '80s, originally with her backing singers The Pips, will be performing such classics as Midnight Train To Georgia plus tracks from her new album Where My Heart Belongs.

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# Celebrating 50 years of Gardeners' World on TV

IT started as a seed of an idea when colour TV was coming in and gardening was considered a fantastic subject for it - and has gone on to produce vast harvests of information for gardeners worldwide.

Now, Gardeners' World is celebrating its 50th year. It held anniversary events at BBC Gardeners' World Live at Birmingham's NEC over four days last weekend, and there's a special feature in this month's edition of Gardeners' World magazine - but the celebrations will no doubt continue long after that.

The BBC Two show has grown to become a mainstay of British gardening TV, capturing on camera how trends have changed over the years, from formal bedding of the 1960s and 1970s, to naturalistic planting and wildlife-friendly spaces of the 1980s, outdoor rooms and decking of the 1990s, robotic mowers and "grow your own" resurgence of the 2000s, to the climate change-conscious, wildlife-friendly plantings for smaller spaces in recent years.

"Over the last 50 years, Gardeners' World has reflected the changes in society at large - it's gone from being presented by Percy Thrower (pictured) in a shirt and tie, to Monty Don's much more relaxed attire. It's changed the advice it gives in line with current thinking and research - no more chemical solutions for example, now it's all about working with nature rather than against it," says Paolo Pronto, executive producer of the show.

"The production process has changed radically. It used to be shot by a huge team with large TV trucks full of heavy machinery, who stopped for a proper sit-down lunch hosted by Percy. Nowadays, a small team using the very latest technology deliver stunning photography with an array of high-tech equipment that would have left the original production team baffled.

"But despite the changes in technology, the clothes and attitude to chemicals, at its core Gardeners' World still does what it set out to do 50 years ago and that is to celebrate gardens and plants, and to inspire people to go outside, get in the garden and have a go."

**GARDENERS' WORLD: A POTTED HISTORY**  
1968-76: Percy Thrower: Organised bedding schemes were his forte.

1976-79: Arthur Billitt: Large vegetable beds represented Arthur's practical style.

1979-1996: Geoff Hamilton: The first presenter to begin to garden organically. He shared trial and error methods with viewers.

1996-2002: Alan Titchmarsh: Alan showed the worth of ornamental grasses and a rich colour palette of perennials.

2003-2008: Monty Don: He brought informal planting and a relaxed style for long borders to the fore.

2008-10: Toby Buckland: Toby transformed an uninspiring field into a garden buzzing with life. But novelty ideas such as 30-minute makeovers didn't inspire viewers. This new style was axed at the end of 2010.

2011-present: Monty returned after recovering from a stroke and the programme moved to his own garden at Longmeadow, Herefordshire.

## PRESENTERS' REFLECTIONS

### :: Monty Don

On Geoff Hamilton: "Geoff Hamilton was my first recollection of Gardeners' World. Geoff was an inspirational figure for me. I liked the way he was organic, the fact he took issue over the limestone pavements and peat debate. As a public figure, I think he was very brave. Everything you do is scrutinised and so to stand up and say something like he did was very brave. I think he saw organics as a personal journey and he was evangelical about it... and for quite a long time, he'd give you both options."

On Barnsdale Gardens, created by Geoff Hamilton in Rutland for Gardeners' World: "If you look at a plan of Barnsdale it looks all wrong. No garden designer would ever have designed that. But when you go there, it feels right. And I think that's because it's all about Geoff Hamilton. The man absolutely enthuses the place and actually all great gardens, all good gardens, come down to individuals."

### :: Alan Titchmarsh

On Percy Thrower: "Percy was the first identifiable icon and it is impossible to say, to convey, how big he was."

On taking over from Geoff Hamilton: "I remember the letter that came in: 'Dear Mr Titchmarsh, when you took over from Geoff Hamilton my heart sank... I've been watching you these past few months... you'll do.' The nicest thing anybody's ever written to me."



The six-acre garden at Pant Hall near Presteigne will open to visitors on Saturday

# Take in pretty six-acre garden for a good cause

A PICTURESQUE six-acre garden will open to visitors on one of the longest days of the year on Saturday (June 24).

Pant Hall near Presteigne is the latest in the open gardens programme that will open to raise money for St Michael's Hospice in Hereford.

The land is the work of Malcolm Temple and Karen Roberts and it will open between 2pm and 5pm.

"It's a lot of work but the garden's looking really good," said Malcolm.

"It's daunting and exciting at the same time."

Half an acre at Pant Hall is devoted to lavender borders, a rose bank, terraced lawns and shrubberies leading down to a bog garden.

Over a brook, visitors will find a birch

grove, wave garden and orchard terraces to enjoy.

Beyond this is a new three-acre woodland, planted between avenues and a central meadow.

"Opening your garden is a huge challenge," added Malcolm.

"But it helps focus your energies to getting things done. It is really enjoyable to be part of and to allow people to see your garden."

There is limited parking so car sharing is encouraged.

Admission is £4 for adults and free for children under 12.

Assistance dogs only.

For further details, including directions to the venue, visit [www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk](http://www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk)

# Not too late to plant your summer pots – just yet



A pot-bound plant is something gardeners should seek to avoid



Feed should be added to the compost to keep it going through summer and beyond



Line pots with grit and polystyrene to help drainage



Small trailing plants can be added to fill in the edges of the pot



Make sure newly-planted pots are well watered

## Report by Hannah Stephenson

**SO, summer's here and you've left it late to get your summer patio plants in their pots, ready to add some colour to your outdoor space.**

Don't despair, because leaving it late can have its advantages. You're likely to get bedding bargains in garden centres keen to sell off their summer annuals and you'll still be able to enjoy pots of colour throughout July and August and even into September if you look after them and choose wisely.

Late-summer blooms such as dahlias and lilies can help make summer containers last

into autumn, so consider putting a few of them in to prolong your season.

Here's our step-by-step guide to planting up some summer colour for your patio, even if it's late in the season...

### CHECK ANNUALS AREN'T POT-BOUND

When choosing bedding, try to avoid plants which have loads of roots sticking out of the bottom of the pot, which indicate the plants have been in there for far too long and can make it tricky to remove the plants from their containers.

### MAKE SURE PLANTS HAVE GOOD DRAINAGE

Line the base of pots with drainage holes with crocks (bits of broken pot) or some other material, which will allow free drainage because most patio plants won't enjoy sitting in water and wet roots. I usually use the polystyrene I bought the bedding plants

in because it's lighter than crocks if you are going to be moving the pots around. Then fill the pot with multi-purpose compost to around three-quarters full, adding water-retaining crystals to the mix.

### STRUCTURE YOUR DISPLAY

Put your main plant in first, which should be taller than the trailers which go around it and will spill over the side of the pot. The tall plant will form the framework for the rest of the display. Firm it in with more compost. Fill around the edges with smaller plants such as trailing lobelia, bacopa and verbenas, adding compost as you go. Often people will use a miniature conifer as the tall aspect of the display, but you can just as easily use upright geraniums or osteospermums in smaller containers or more exotic plants like spiky cordylines or exotic-looking cannas if you have bigger pots.

### FEED YOUR PLANTS

Add granular feed to the compost mix which should keep it going through summer and beyond - there are many formulas on the market, which help reduce the need for feeding the plant with liquid feed throughout the summer. Many composts also contain water-retaining and feeding elements.

### KEEP THEM WELL WATERED

Water newly-planted plants in well. If it's dry, you will need to water the plants every day and in prolonged dry spells, twice a day. Do it early morning or at dusk to reduce evaporation. Remember that the smaller the pot you use, the more watering the plants will need because there will be limited compost to retain moisture. Go for the largest pots you have.

You're not too late for colour - but don't delay any longer.



# The ricket



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# It's A Little More Mascara for John

**H**e's thrilled that the new touring production of hit musical *La Cage aux Folles* will land in Wolverhampton from Tuesday.

EastEnders star John John had a great time when he visited Birmingham recently, as the show featured in the city's Gay Village. Because the lavish new production about a drag artiste in a vibrant St Tropez nightclub is a tale of inclusivity.

John says: "The message is that you can be whoever you want to be, no matter what race, religion or sexuality you are. We all have to learn to accept, celebrate, acknowledge and respect each other's differences. We need to realise that we're all individuals living together, so we have to get along."

Bill Kenwright's *La Cage aux Folles* is a glitzy, high-kicking, feather-trimmed joy starring John and Adrian Zmed. It will feature at Wolverhampton's Grand until July 1.

George and the dazzling drag artiste Albin, otherwise known as Za Za and the star of *La Cage aux Folles*, live an idyllic existence in the heart of St Tropez. But behind the curtains of this sparkling extravaganza, all may be about to change.

Georges' son Jean-Michel announces his engagement to the daughter of a notorious right-wing politician determined to close down the local colourful night-life. Drama and hilarity ensue when a meeting of the parents forces them to cover up their vibrant lifestyle. Will Albin be able to play the role of his life to ensure that Jean-Michel can marry his love?

The production stars West End hero John, whose extensive theatre credits include the West End productions of *A Chorus Line* at the London Palladium, *Cats*, *Starlight Express* and *Chicago*. He also played the loveable Christian in BBC's *EastEnders*.

Alongside him is Broadway star Adrian, whose credits include *Blood Brothers*, *Grease* and *Falsettos*. On television he played Officer Vince Romano alongside William Shatner in the long running hit series *T.J. Hooker* and big screen credits include *Johnny in Grease 2*.

Joining them is West End icon, Marti Webb. She received huge critical acclaim for *Tell Me on a Sunday*, a show specifically written for her by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black.

John has spent a lifetime preparing for such roles, having left school for *Cats* as a teenager.

"Leaving school for *Cats* when I was 16 really wasn't a big decision. I'd trained for it all my life. I'd been away at boarding school, the Royal Ballet School, since I was nine years old, and by 16 I was ready to go.

"During that first year of touring, my father passed away. I had to deal with a lot personally and I also grew up a lot. Thinking back on it now, it was quite extraordinary, but at the time, when you're 16, you don't give it much attention. It doesn't seem unusual or dangerous or out of the ordinary."

That production remains dear to John and he has the fondest memories of it: "*Cats* is dear to me because it's the only time my father has seen me perform. The show will always have a special place in my heart for that reason, but it was also a

Love story – John stars alongside Broadway star Adrian Zmed



place I spent a lot of my youth. Things got very comfortable and very familiar. It never felt like going to work, it felt like going home."

And yet despite getting such a good start to his career, John had to work hard to make a go of things. While he landed on his feet in *Cats*, he had to repeat the feat again and again and again, until he was established.

"It's easy to get your first job, but it's really about getting your fifth and your sixth and so on. It's about keeping it going. Being able to take the rejections, the criticisms, the good reviews, the bad reviews... that's what gets difficult. In many ways, one of the things I'm most proud of is that I've stuck it out and endured it."

He's doing so at present following the death of his mother. John had appeared on *Celebrity Big Brother* to raise funds for her care, which cost £45,000 per year. However, his mum, Bridget, died in April after being diagnosed with dementia and Alzheimer's in 2010. John tried to care for her as long as he could and she moved in with him for a while.

"Then, when we as a family felt we were not equipped medically to deal with her condition – my sister and I both work – we had to find her a placement."

"The only place we felt was fitting for her cost that amount of money and we saw a lot of places."

He said: "My mum passed away with zero in her bank account. Zero. I wish she had enjoyed the money. She saved for the wrong things, she saved for her family. "My mum worked so hard every day of her life and what she had was to leave, not to us necessarily, but to her grandchildren, and that was all she had."

"People now say things like, 'There are positive ways to live with dementia'. You name me one. Because as far as I can see, there is nothing positive to having Alzheimer's or dementia."

"It is brutal and it is cruel and I have nothing good to say about it."

*It's easy to get your first job, but it's really about getting your fifth job...*

*La Cage aux Folles* is a joyous production. The original 1983 Broadway production received nine nominations for Tony Awards and won six, including Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book. The success of the musical spawned a West End production and several international runs.

The 2004 Broadway revival won the Tony Award for Best Revival, and the 2008 London revival garnered the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival. The 2010 Broadway revival was nominated for eleven Tony Awards, winning the Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical.

It has toured around the world, with productions in Australia, Germany, Colombia, Mexico, Estonia, Spain, Portugal, Holland, Korea, Denmark, Panama, Puerto Rico, Sweden and the Philippines.

John is happy simply to be a part of it: "Thinking about *La Cage aux Folles* makes me quite emotional. We've had a standing ovation every night. I've just come off a sell-out tour of Chicago and we very rarely had a standing ovation. This is the kind of show that compels people to get on their feet. The book [by Harvey Fierstein] is a gift, there isn't a word out of place. To be able to stand onstage every night and sing "I Am What I Am" is really life-affirming."

"It's a riot from start to finish. Gary McCann has done an amazing job with our set – it looks like the inside of a jewellery box. My costumes are sensational – I have 14 changes in the first half alone. Albin has been played by some legends before me, and it's not something I take on lightly. I'm from Manchester and I decided to play him as a northerner. It feels very familiar to me, and I feel very comfortable in his shoes because of that."

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A scene from Die Fledermaus



## WNO take audience back to seductive old Vienna

Welsh National Opera return to Birmingham Hippodrome next week to offer a taste of one of music's most seductive destinations, Vienna, with a celebration of the city's musical culture and style.

The season includes a new production of Richard Strauss's sumptuous comedy Der Rosenkavalier, and a revival of John Copley's opulent, traditional production of Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss II. Alongside these are performances of WNO's classic production of Puccini's Madam Butterfly.

WNO's new music director, Tomáš Hanus, will conduct both Die Fledermaus, performed on Wednesday, and Der Rosenkavalier, performed on Saturday, July 1.

Directed by Olivia Fuchs with design by Niki Turner,

the new production of Der Rosenkavalier will take audiences on a passionate journey to 1911 Vienna. Celebrated soprano Rebecca Evans will be making a role debut in the iconic role of The Marschallin. The revival of Die Fledermaus will also transport audiences to early 1900s Vienna in a production that revels in frivolity and fancy frocks at a masquerade ball.

Completing the trio of operas is Puccini classic Madam Butterfly, on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Joachim Herz's production will be directed by Sarah Crisp and conducted by Andrew Greenwood. Madam Butterfly tells the heartbreaking tale of Cio-Cio-San's love and loss at the hands of her US naval officer, Pinkerton. Linda Richardson returns to share the role of Cio-Cio-San with Judith Howarth. Paul Charles Clarke sings the role of Pinkerton. See birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000.

## Dude returns to roll away the years



As leader of 1970s British rock legends Mott The Hoople, Ian Hunter is widely revered as one of rock 'n' roll's most compelling performers and most articulate songwriters.

As author of such anthems as All The Way From Memphis and the voice of such landmark albums as All The Young Dudes, he remains a hero to fellow musicians and fans around the world. He is bringing his Rant Band for a concert at Birmingham Town Hall on Sunday.

Hunter, pictured, joined Mott The Hoople in 1969. With Mott, he had recorded four albums – Mott The Hoople, Mad Shadows, Wildlife

and Brain Capers by the time they hit international stardom with the glam rock anthem, the David Bowie penned All The Young Dudes.

The band's success continued with Mott and The Hoople, between them containing the hits All The Way From Memphis, Honaloochie Boogie, Roll Away The Stone and The Golden Age Of Rock 'n' Roll.

Mott disbanded in 1974 and Ian moved to New York, starting a celebrated solo career. The albums Ian Hunter, All American Alien Boy, Overnight Angels, You're Never Alone With A Schizophrenic, Short Back 'n' Sides and All Of The Good Ones Are Taken.

Barry Manilow took one of Ian's most personal songs, Ships into the charts.

Ian took time out to produce in the '80's, returning in 1993, since then Ian has produced what some critics feel to be his best work, The Artful Dodger, Rant, Shrunk Heads, Man Overboard and When I'm President.

Mott The Hoople have reformed twice and Hunter played two successful tours with them. But, whilst proud of his past achievements, he would prefer to focus on the future. Hunter said: "For the first 15 years of my life, I had no idea what I was here for. But then Elvis came out and it was, 'Oh, that's what I am here for'.

"Rock 'n' roll gave me a great life and I don't know what I would have done without it. It's all I know."

## Mirga takes the baton for opera

Acclaimed young Lithuanian conductor and Music Director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Mirga Gražinyte-Tyla, pictured, will be holding the baton when Mozart opera Idemeneo is performed at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, at 5pm on Saturday.

English tenor Jeremy Ovenden will be in the title role as the King of Crete in a story from ancient Greece. Sung in Italian with English surtitles, the three hour performance will include two intervals.



## Old and young punk rockers in action

Pick of the gigs include punk veterans Dead Kennedys at Birmingham's O2 Academy on Monday, and controversial young punks Cabbage across the city at Digbeth's O2 Institute tomorrow (Friday).

Joy Division are one of the influences on Birmingham band Semantics, who top a four band bill in a home town gig at the Sunflower Lounge on Saturday.

Former W.A.S.P guitarist Chris Holmes brings his band Mean Man to the Robin 2 in Bilston on Tuesday, and on Wednesday Ritchie Blackmore's Rainbow are at the Genting Arena.

Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms next weekend hosts local metal band Our World Below, topping a five band bill on Friday, July 1. Up-and-coming country music duo American Young bring a flavour of modern Nashville to the Slade Rooms on July 2.

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CHOICE



Stephen Fry

Britain's Great Gay Buildings (Channel 4, 8pm)

Stephen Fry is joined by seven fellow celebrities to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Sexual Offences Act, which decriminalised private homosexual acts between men. The group explores the histories of several buildings that became cornerstones in the battle for gay rights in the UK. The Rev Richard Coles revisits the hedonistic past of London's Heaven Nightclub, while Mary Portas visits Shildon Hall near Halifax to celebrate the life of 19th-century lesbian heiress Anne Lister. Craig Revel Horwood investigates Britain's drag scene at the Royal Vauxhall Tavern, and Simon Callow tells the story of Oscar Wilde's downfall at the Old Bailey. Plus, Rikki Beadle-Blair visits the Theatre Royal Haymarket.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Food & Drink. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. **Weather: 1.15** Tennis: Queen's. The AEGON Championships. **5.35** BBC News. **5.45** Regional Programmes. **5.55** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

**6.45 Doctor Who.** Friendship drives the Doctor to make the rashest decision of his many lives when, trapped on board a giant spaceship, caught in the event horizon of a black hole, he witnesses the death of someone he pledged to protect. For a man well-accustomed to bending the laws of time to his advantage, now every passing second seems to be leading to an awful loss beyond even his control. However, he remains determined to overcome the odds and redeem his mistake, but prevailing against time itself could be one battle too many for the Time Lord.

**7.30 Pitch Battle.** The choral music contest continues, as Mel Giedroyc gives another diverse selection of choirs a chance to compete in head-to-head knock-out challenges. The groups will be asked to demonstrate their signature style with a "showstopper" performance, before moving on to test their mettle in a "riff-off" that sees them competing opposite a rival outfit. Another guest adjudicator takes a seat on the panel, to help resident judges Gareth Malone and Kelis to deliver their expert opinions on each performance.

**9.00 Casuality.** Alicia's concerns about Ethan escalate when she discovers he hasn't been sleeping, and has instead been keeping watch outside of Scott Ellison's flat. Elsewhere, Iain and Lily begin the day with a spring in their step after their night together, but cracks begin to show in their blossoming relationship when they disagree over how to deal with an elderly couple hospitalised following a botched suicide pact. Plus, sparks fly between Connie and Sam.

**9.50 Mrs Brown's Boys.** Cathy goes to extreme lengths to impress her psychologist boyfriend. (R)

**10.20 BBC News:** Weather; National Lottery Update.

**10.40 Film: The Proposal.** (2009) **12.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.30** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.40 Film:** Love Affair. (1939) Romantic drama, starring Charles Boyer and Irene Dunne. **8.05 Film:** Odette. (1950) The French widow of an English soldier becomes a British spy during the Nazi occupation of her country. Fact-based. **Second World War** drama, starring Anna Neagle and Trevor Howard. **10.00** Monty Hall's Great Irish Escape. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00 Film:** Splash! (1984) A mermaid falls for a New Yorker she saved from drowning and assumes human form so she can follow him onto dry land. Romantic fantasy comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Daryl Hannah. **2.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **4.30** Flog It! (R) **5.30** Glastonbury 2017.

**7.00 Supercharged Otters: Natural World.** Cameraman Charlie Hamilton James has been captivated by otters for the last 25 years and has filmed them more than anyone else. Now, through the eyes of three river orphaned otters, he sets out to reveal their survival secrets and exactly why he believes these creatures are so special. (R)

**8.00 Glastonbury 2017.** Clara Amfo and Nick Grimshaw present highlights from the Pyramid Stage, where pop starlet Katy Perry makes her debut Glastonbury appearance today. Plus, the best performances from across the festival ground throughout the second day, and another selection of bespoke acoustic music.

**9.00 Glastonbury 2017.** Clara Amfo and Jo Whaley present live, uninterrupted coverage of this evening's headline set by Foo Fighters. Fans and attendees will both be hoping frontman Dave Grohl will be taking good care of himself before travelling to Worthy Farm this weekend; he and his band were due to perform as a headline act at the 2015 festival, but were forced to pull out after Grohl broke his leg during an on-stage stunt at a concert in Sweden. Beyond the US rockers' set, Lauren Laverne and Huw Stephens will be touring the festival grounds to take in a few more acoustic performances.

**1.00 Film:** Goodbye First Love. (2011) Romantic drama, with Lola Creton and Sebastian Urzendowsky. **2.45** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.45** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.10** Ben 10. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** ITV Racing: The Opening Show. **10.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.25** Film: Horrid Henry: The Movie. (2011) **1.15** ITV News. **Weather: 1.30** ITV Racing Live: Royal Ascot. Coverage of race five of the prestigious festival.

**6.00 Regional Programme:** Weather.

**6.10** ITV News: Weather.

**6.25 Catchphrase: Celebrity Special.** New series. Stephen Mulhern returns with the guessing game-show in which three contestants are challenged to figure out which familiar lie behind a series of animated clues. For this opening episode, Stephen is joined by a trio of celebrity contestants: Diversity's Ashley Banjo, Benidorm actor Jake Canuso and TV presenter Lorraine Kelly, who all stay in the game right through to the Super Catchphrase round.

**7.30 The Voice Kids.** The junior version of the singing talent contest reaches its third round, as Emma Willis invites more youngsters between the ages of eight and 14 to take to the stage and prove their talent. Coaches Will.i.am, Danny Jones and Pixie Lott continue to seek new recruits to fill up their teams, while the kids themselves will have their eyes on the £30,000 prize – and the a family holiday to Disneyland Paris.

**9.00 Film: Casino Royale.** (2006) James Bond achieves his '00' status and is dispatched on the trail of Le Chiffre, an international criminal financial terrorist organisations around the world. Bond's investigation leads to a casino in Montenegro, where he takes part in a high-stakes poker game in a bid to bankrupt Le Chiffre and put an end to his plans. Spy thriller, directed by Martin Campbell and starring Daniel Craig in his first outing as 007, with Eva Green, Mads Mikkelsen, Judi Dench and Giancarlo Giannini.

**11.50** ITV News: Weather.

**12.10** The Chase. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.10** Transylvania Ultra Marathon. **6.35** Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **7.05** Ironman: Staffordshire. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. **12.25** F1 Meets Toto Wolff. **12.55** Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage from the Baku City Circuit (Start-time 2.00pm). **3.30** World's Most Expensive Cars. **4.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.35** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R)

**6.00 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 The Autistic Gardener.** Alan Gardner visits Bristol, where Ig, Joe and their three children need some help clearing their 100-foot garden of weeds and waste. With a budget of £15,000, the professional gardener sets out to restore some order to their overgrown, chaotic plot. He also visits the gardens at The Getty Centre in Los Angeles, where he discovers a geometrical layout is the key to the design.

**8.00 Britain's Great Gay Buildings.** Stephen Fry, Richard Coles, Mary Portas, Craig Revel Horwood, Simon Callow, Rikki Beadle-Blair, Liz Carr and Waheed Ali explore buildings that helped define gay rights in the UK.

**9.00 Film: Identity Thief.** (2013) A con-woman acquires an executive's credit card numbers, and lives a life of luxury at his expense. The outraged victim sets out on a mission to track down the fraudster and bring her to justice personally – resulting in them travelling on a disastrous road trip across America together. Comedy, with Jason Bateman, Melissa McCarthy, Jon Favreau and Amanda Peet.

**11.15 Film: The Purge.** (2013) The American government responds to rising crime rates by introducing an annual 12-hour period when all laws are suspended, so the people can get violent impulses out of their system. A family takes shelter at home, but when a stranger turns up asking for help, the mayhem outside soon catches up with them. Horror, starring Lena Headey and Ethan Hawke.

**12.50** Ramsay's Hotel Hell. (R) **1.40** Hollyoaks. **3.50** Ackley Bridge. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.15** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.50** Animals Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.15** Police Interceptors: Deadly Pursuit. (R) **1.15** The Great British Benefits Handout. (R) **2.15** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **3.15** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door: When Neighbours Attack. (R) **4.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away Special. **5.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

**6.05 5 News Weekend.**

**6.10 Funnies! Ever So Slightly Tantrums.** A collection of comic clips featuring youngsters that have taken the internet by storm, featuring sassy six-year-old Johanna belting out her version of Aretha Franklin's Respect. (R)

**7.00 Blind Date.** Paul O'Grady's revival of the dating game show continues, as a former member of the Royal Air Force embarks on a mission to find her very own Prince Charming, and a male swimwear model takes his pick of three single ladies. Plus, Paul catches up with last week's matches to discover whether their first dates were a success.

**8.00 Before They Were Stars.** Part two of two. Dale Winton revisits another selection of archive clips that immortalised popular celebrities' first, ill-advised forays into the cut-throat world of showbusiness.

**9.00 Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

**10.05 The Miranda Hart Story.** Profile of the comedian, examining her early years performing at the Edinburgh Festival before reaching stardom with her successful sitcom and dramatic role in Call the Midwife. (R)

**11.25 Lip Sync Battle UK: Manfred v Keegan.** Melanie Brown and Professor Green present the musical game show as comedian Jason Manfred and actress Michelle Keegan go head to head lip-synching to a hit song. (R)

**11.50 Access.**

**12.00** Sportscasino. **3.10** Gold Digger and Proud. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four** **7.00** Toots & The Maytals & Liam Gallagher at Glastonbury 2017. The Jamaican musical group's performance earlier this afternoon. **8.00** The National at Glastonbury 2017. The US indie-rockers' performance, live at the Pyramid Stage. **9.00** Father John Misty at Glastonbury 2017. Live coverage of the American singer-songwriter's set this evening. **10.00** The Jacksons at Glastonbury 2017. Live coverage of the popular funk-pop family band's set at the West Halls stage. **11.45** Top of the Pops: 1984 **12.20** Northern Soul: Living for the Weekend **1.20** Classic Soul at the BBC **2.20** Otis Redding: Soul Ambassador **3.20** Close

**ITV2** **12.00** Take Me Out **1.10** Catchphrase **1.50** You've Been Framed! Goes Wild! **2.50** Film: Arthur (2011) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55** Film: Arthur (2011) **5.00** Film: Freaky Friday (2003) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10** Film: Freaky Friday (2003) **6.55** Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00** Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.00** Celebrity Juice: Halloween Special **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.20** Film: Piranha (2010) **2.20** FYI Daily **2.25** Film: Piranha (2010) **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3** **11.20** Film: Murder on the Orient Express (1974) **12.55** Lewis **2.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Law & Order: UK **1.55** On the Buses **2.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

**ITV4** **1.45** Film: The Great Outdoors (1988) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50** Film: The Great Outdoors (1988) **3.30** Live 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup **6.15** Football Rivalries **8.00** River Monsters **9.05** Film: Jaws 2 (1978) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: Jaws 2 (1978) **11.25** Film: Jaws 3 (1983) **12.25** FYI Daily **12.30** Film: Jaws 3 (1983) **1.30** The Football Mavericks **2.25** Tommy Cooper **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4** **12.30** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **12.45** Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) **2.30** The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Fast & Furious 5 (2011) **11.35** Gogglebox **1.45** Tattoo Fixers **2.45** Rude Tube **3.35** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.20** How I Met Your Mother **5.00** Rude(ish) Tube

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CHOICE



**Aidan Turner**  
**Poldark (BBC1, 9pm)**  
Ross is ordered to leave Roscoff under threat of execution. He travels with Tholly to meet his contact in France, but finds information about Dwight's fate comes at a high price. Sam leads a congregation of methodists in protest outside the church – only to face broken promises from George, who revokes their lease on the meeting house, which leads them to turn to Elizabeth for help. Geoffrey Charles has some words of advice for Drake, who has shared a moment of intimacy on the beach with Morwenna. Aidan Turner, Ellise Chappell, Harry Richardson, Sean Gilder, Tom York, Jack Farthing, Gabriella Wilde, Heida Reed and Harry Marcus star.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.00** Tennis: Queen's. **5.10** Points of View. **5.25** Songs of Praise. **6.00** **Celebrity Mastermind.** John Humphrys tests Shappi Khorsandi, Chris Stark, Piers Taylor and Lee Pearson on Charlie Chaplin, Scott Mills, Bob Dylan and British birds. (R) **6.30** **BBC News.** **6.50** **Regional Programme.** **7.00** **Countryfile.** Sean Fletcher reports from Carmarthenshire, where he meets an expert on birds of prey in Carmarthenshire who uses drones designed to look like birds to train falcons to hunt. He takes a look behind the scenes in the workshop where they are built and visits a breeding unit for peregrine falcon chicks. Plus, a selection of reports from the series featuring working animals. **8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** The roving team values more decorative objects and rarities belonging to the public. **9.00** **Poldark.** Ross is ordered to leave Roscoff under threat of execution. He travels with Tholly to meet his contact in France, but finds information about Dwight's fate comes at a high price. Sam leads a congregation of methodists in protest outside the church – only to face broken promises from George, who revokes their lease on the meeting house, which leads them to turn to Elizabeth for help. Geoffrey Charles has some words of advice for Drake, who has shared a moment of intimacy on the beach with Morwenna. **10.00** **BBC News.** **10.20** **Regional Programme.** **10.30** **Tracey Breaks the News.** Tracey Ullman returns with a one-off political and topical offering, filmed close to transmission and broadcast in the aftermath of the general election. (R) **11.00** **Live at the Apollo.** Leading performers on the stand-up circuit share their light-hearted views on modern life. (R) **11.30** **Film: The Spectacular Now.** (2013) **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.00** A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.45** The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Sailing: America's Cup Highlights. **2.00** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.45** Garden Rescue. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Natural World. (R) **5.10** Plog! (R) **6.00** **Glastonbury 2017.** Mark Radcliffe and Lauren Laverne present coverage of the afternoon's highlights, including the Bee Gee and classic songwriter Barry Gibb's performance at the Sunday Afternoon Legends slot. Plus, Nile Rodgers and his disco band Chic perform many of their hits at the Pyramid Stage, alongside a selection of acoustic sets from throughout the day, live reports from around the site, and a look forward to the final headline, pop star Ed Sheeran. **9.00** **Glastonbury 2017.** Clara Amfo and Huw Stephens present live coverage of global pop star Ed Sheeran's performance at the Pyramid Stage on the third and final night of coverage from the festival at Worthy Farm, marking the singer's debut as a Glastonbury headliner. Following Ed Sheeran's live performance, Jo Whitley, Mark Radcliffe and Huw Stephens take over the presenting reins on the BBC Two sofa and reminisce on the best of the final day of the Festival, looking back at their own personal highlights from across the weekend. Last in the series. **12.00** **Film: Up There.** (2012) A spirit is given the job of escorting the recently deceased to the afterlife, when all he wants to do is cross over himself. He is partnered with an annoyingly cheerful sidekick for his latest assignment, but they manage to lose the soul in question and face a frantic search through a British seaside town. Comic fantasy, starring Burn Gorman, Kate O'Flynn and Aymen Hamdouchi. **1.15** Sign Zone: Question Time. David Dimbleby chairs the debate from Plymouth, with a panel of politicians and other guests facing topical questions from the audience. (R) **2.15** Holly City. As Jasmine begins to investigate the past, she makes a shocking discovery, while Dom takes a dim view when new friend Lofly appears insensitive. (R) **3.15** This is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.45** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.10** Ben 10. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Love Your Garden. (R) **12.00** ITV News; Weather. **12.10** **Film: King Ralph.** (1991) Comedy, starring John Goodman. **2.00** The Voice Kids. (R) **3.30** Live 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup. Germany v Cameroon (Kick-off 4.00pm). **6.10** **ITV News:** Weather. **6.20** **Film: The Amazing Spider-Man 2.** (2014) The webslinging hero battles a powerful new enemy when a downtrodden engineer develops lethal electrical powers, which he unleashes on those he believes have betrayed him. As if that wasn't enough to keep him busy, he faces an even greater threat when he is reunited with an unstable old friend who has been charged with a sinister mission by his dying father, leading to a series of tense confrontations that threaten to change his life for ever. Superhero adventure sequel, starring Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone and Dane DeHaan. **9.00** **The Loch.** The police hold a press conference to appeal for information about Jonjo, and Smilie hopes to take the opportunity to reassure the public that they have nothing to fear and prevent news of the human heart found by the lake from spreading further. However, his plans are disrupted by Blake, who reveals everything and shares his theory that the community is being terrorised by a serial killer. An unexpected discovery is made outside the village hall during a town meeting set up to try and identify the killer. **10.00** **ITV News:** Weather. **10.20** **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston. Allegra Stratton presents a guide to the latest issues on social media. (R) **11.15** **Lethal Weapon.** (R) **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.35** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Eating Well with Hemsley + Hemsley. **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **1.00** Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Live Build-Up. Previewing the eighth round of the season. **1.35** Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Live. Coverage from the Baku City Circuit (Start-time 2.00pm). **4.10** Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Live Reaction. A review of the eighth round of the season. **5.00** Guy Martin: Last Flight of the Vulcan Bomber. (R) **6.35** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Grand Designs.** Boat enthusiast James Strangeways invites Kevin McCloud to survey progress on the construction of his new home, which his architect nephew Ben Hebblethwaite has designed to be as "un-houselike" as possible. James has spent the past 35 years travelling the canals and waterways of Britain, and despite never liking houses, has decided now is the time to put down roots on dry land. Ben hoped a home standing on stilts above a marsh, and incorporating ship-like qualities such as a keel-shaped roof, will be enough to satisfy his boat-mad uncle. However, Ben's contractor goes into liquidation a few months into the project, taking £87,000 of the £300,000 budget, and when James decides to make a few tweaks to the design, alarm-bells begin to ring for the young architect. (R) **8.00** **Great Canal Journeys: India.** Part two of two. Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore the Brahmaputra river, where they follow an old trade route, meet a community of monks and take a ride on an elephant. **9.00** **The Handmaid's Tale.** Offred receives a surprising proposition from Serena Joy that brings back memories of the unconventional way she met her husband. **10.10** **Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Joe Lycett and Michelle Wolf join regulars Jon Richardson and Sean Lock for the words-and-numbers game, with Adam Riches in Dictionary Corner. (R) **11.15** **Film: The Last Days on Mars.** (2013) Sci-fi horror. **1.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.00** The Last Leg. (R) **2.55** KOTV Boxing Weekly.

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Pip Ahoy! **6.10** Mr. Men. (R) **6.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.35** Wisper. (R) **6.40** Paw Patrol. (R) **6.55** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.05** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.20** Oily the Little White Van. (R) **7.25** Oily the Little White Van. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.05** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.20** Wisper. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.10** Little Princess. (R) **9.25** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.45** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25** **Film: Jack and the Beanstalk.** (2010) Fantasy adventure, starring Colin Firth. **3.10** **Film: Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (2009) Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant and Sarah Jessica Parker. **5.15** **Film: Made of Honor.** (2008) Romantic comedy, starring Patrick Dempsey and Michelle Monaghan. **7.00** **Cricket on 5.** England v South Africa. Action from the third T20 international of the three-match series, which took place at The SSE SWALEC in Cardiff. **8.00** **That's So 1994.** The events of 1994, when the Church of England ordained its first female priests, the first UK National Lottery draw took place, and the Channel Tunnel opened. (R) **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. **10.05** **OMG! My Barbie Body.** New series. Documentary series about people who have undergone extreme cosmetic surgery, beginning with three women who have tried to turn themselves into Barbie dolls. **11.00** **Film: Role Models.** (2008) After a brush with the law, two irresponsible men have to look after troubled kids as community service. Comedy, with Paul Rudd, Sean William Scott and Christopher Mintz-Piasse. **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Our Dream Hotel. (R) **4.50** Britain's Greatest Bridges. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Rag'n'Bone Man and Shaggy at Glastonbury 2017. Coverage of the singers' performances at the festival. **8.00** Special Guests at Glastonbury 2017. Special appearances at the John Peel Stage. **9.00** Operation Crossbow 10.00 Storyville: Russia's Toughest Prison – The Condemned 11.20 Horizon: Antarctica Ice Station Rescue 12.20 The Comet's Tale 1.20 Timeshift: The Golden Age of Coach Travel 2.20 David Attenborough's Zoo Quest in Colour 3.50 Close **ITV2**  
**11.55** The Voice Kids 1.25 **Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) 2.25 FYI Daily 2.30 **Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) 3.10 **Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) 4.10 FYI Daily 4.15 **Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) 5.00 **Film:** Flubber (1997) 6.05 FYI Daily 6.10 **Film:** Flubber (1997) 6.50 **Film:** The Wedding Planner (2001) 7.50 FYI Daily 7.55 **Film:** The Wedding Planner (2001) 9.00 Love Island 10.00 Love Island: Afternoon 11.00 Family Guy 12.30 American Dad! 1.30 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.00 Planet's Funniest Animals 2.25 Teleshopping 5.55 ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**  
**11.50** The Darling Buds of May 1.05 Hidden Treasure 3.10 Agatha Christie's Marple 5.15 Foyle's War 7.15 The Road to Coronation Street 9.00 Joanna Lumley's Japan 10.00 Law & Order: UK 12.00 Wire in the Blood 3.35 May the Best House Win 5.15 On the Buses 5.40 ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4**  
**11.10** Pawn Stars 12.35 **Film:** Rio Bravo (1959) 1.35 FYI Daily 1.40 **Film:** Rio Bravo (1959) 3.30 Live 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup. Chile v Australia (Kick-off 4.00pm). **6.00** Fierce 7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special 8.00 River Monsters 9.05 **Film:** The Great Train Robbery (1978) 10.10 FYI Daily 10.15 **Film:** The Great Train Robbery (1978) 11.20 **Film:** The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (2007) 12.25 FYI Daily 12.30 **Film:** The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (2007) 2.30 Tommy Cooper 3.00 Teleshopping **E4**  
**12.55** **Film:** Tooth Fairy (2010) 3.00 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special 9.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 10.00 **Film:** Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (2009) 11.50 Gogglebox 12.55 Rude Tube 2.00 8 Out of 10 Cats

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FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**Real Murders: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery, Channel 5, 3.20pm**  
Librarian Aurora Teagarden is embroiled in a murder case when a member of her book reading group is killed. Mystery, with Candace Cameron Bure. (2015)

**TUESDAY**  
**Fatal Justice, Channel 5, 3.20pm**  
A woman shopping in a convenience store witnesses a robbery in which the owner is killed and her niece seriously injured, ending up a paraplegic. The shopper, Karen, believes she recognises one of the robbers, but he is released thanks to a false alibi. Tortured by the memories of the murder of her brother – a crime that was never solved – Richard embarks on a trail of revenge against the perpetrators. Drama, starring Cynthia Watros. (2012)



Entrapment, Friday, BBC1, 11.25pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Millionaire Mystery: The Ultimate Gift, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
A man has to complete a series of odd tasks set by billionaire grandfather in order to receive his inheritance from his billionaire grandfather, with no idea the challenges will change his life completely. Family drama, starring James Garner. (2006)

**THURSDAY**  
**Left to Die: The Sandra & Tammi Chase Story, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
A woman takes a holiday in Ecuador, but ends up arrested for drug trafficking and incarcerated in a brutal prison. Her daughter devotes herself to getting her released, facing a lengthy battle with bureaucracy and a foreign legal system she knows nothing of. Fact-based prison drama, starring Barbara Hershey. (2012)

**FRIDAY**  
**Entrapment, BBC1, 11.25pm**  
An elusive professional art thief suspected of stealing a priceless painting is pursued by an insurance agent. However, instead of bringing the criminal to book, she teams up with him to plot the robbery of a lifetime – although neither is sure the other can be trusted. Crime thriller, starring Sean Connery, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Ving Rhames. (1999)

# Richard opens up the maze to more famous faces

Many viewers couldn't contain their excitement when it was announced that this puzzle-based TV show was winging its way back to our screens. It follows last year's successful Stand Up To Cancer special, hosted by Stephen Merchant. Rumours of a full-time TV comeback first surfaced last year, with former Doctor Who David Tennant tipped to host. However, it was Richard Ayoade who was eventually announced as the new Maze Master for the series reboot. The comedian first found fame through his roles in The Mighty Boosh, Garth Marenghi's Darkplace and The IT Crowd, but has recently become an accomplished presenter, fronting factual shows Travel Man and Gadget Man. The Rocky Horror Picture Show writer and star Richard O'Brien was the first and most recognised host of The Crystal Maze, presenting the show during its most successful period from 1990 to 1993. He was known for his kooky and quirky demeanour during the show's games, including his Victorian sense of fashion and playing the harmonica while he waited for contestants to complete the tasks. Edward Tudor-Pole then took over and ran proceedings before the show ended in 1995. For those who haven't seen the show before, contestants of The Crystal Maze are challenged to navigate themselves through a labyrinth of tasks. They pick up time crystals as they pass through each of the four zones – Aztec, Medieval, Industrial and Futuristic – which they need to use in the final mission. The team of five contestants must then battle in the Crystal Dome to win a cash prize. There will be 20 hour-long episodes in this run, all taking place in a specially-built 30,000 sq ft set in Bristol, created by original Crystal Maze designer James Dillon. In last week's first celebrity special, Ore Oduba, Vicky Pattison, Alex Brooker, Lydia Bright and Louie Spence were the brave contenders taking on the challenge. Tonight, TV presenter Steve Jones, Gogglebox star and queen of the 1m A Celebrity jungle Scarlett Moffatt, former F1 racing driver David Coulthard, and TOWIE's Joey Essex, join team captain, model and TV personality Jodie Kidd in the four fantastical zones, attempting to win enough crystals that will earn them precious seconds in the Crystal Dome to win prizes for Stand Up to Cancer. Watch out too for comedy actors Adam Buxton, known for numerous panel shows and podcasts, and Jessica Hynes, from Spaced and W1A, who will be making cameo appearances. Buxton has his own character, a disembodied head called Jarhead who lives in the Futuristic Zone, and asks contestants to answer riddles. Hynes, meanwhile, plays The Knight, guardian of the Medieval Zone, who will present a major challenge to any foolhardy crystal collector wanting to progress.



The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special, Friday, Channel 4, 9pm

# BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**Loaded Channel 4, 10pm**  
This new comedy drama about four friends who become rich overnight after selling their video game starring a cat for £246 million has divided both critics and viewers. However the adventures of troubled love-sick Josh (Jim Howick), flash boy Leon (Samuel Anderson), guilt-ridden public schoolboy Ewan (Jonny Sweet) and likeable ex-junkie Watto Nick Helm may still have start-up potential. Rather than being about how people would spend that type of money if they made it, Loaded has more depth and is all about the guilt, pain and torment that such wealth brings. The first series ends tonight with the gang in disarray, as Leon tries to bring about a temporary reconciliation. But the quartet have to decide what is more important – the money, the company, or staying together.

**TUESDAY**  
**The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies Channel 5, 8pm**  
A new, 16-part run begins tonight, and kicks-off in heartbreaking fashion with the story of Timmy, an elderly collie cross who is discovered in a house surrounded by his own mess. To make matters even worse, he has a huge and painful tumour on his

face - luckily for him, RSPCA inspector Anthony refuses to give up on Timmy, who is going to need lots of care and attention. Anthony's fellow inspector, Helen, comes face-to-face with stropky shih-tzu Archie; she hopes his grumpy mood will lighten once the matted fur obscuring his eyes and ears is trimmed back to a manageable length. There's also an insight into the fate of two adorable French bulldog puppies abandoned in a box in Pontypool Park, and Davies himself pops up in a bid to inspire someone to adopt an unwanted animal.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Watchdog Live BBC1, 8pm**  
New series. Matt Allwright, Steph McGovern and Nikki Fox return with a new series of topical reports and investigations, live from the programme's new home in Salford. In this episode, the hosts report on the alarming concerns surrounding smart meters in residential properties. Elsewhere, the team embark on an undercover investigation into a company that is training their new recruits to deliberately

target elderly customers with products that they do not need, often costing thousands of pounds.

**THURSDAY**  
**The Supervet Channel 4, 8pm**  
There was a time when many pets and animals would be put down due to injury, or left to suffer. Thankfully, pioneering veterinarian Dr Noel Fitzpatrick will always go the extra mile to help a creature achieve a better quality of life. This week he uses his talents to treat a puppy called Poppy, which has difficulties with walking, and a lurcher called Dylan needs help with a collapsed joint. The programme also features a one-year-old cat that was hit by a car on its first



The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies, Tuesday, Channel 5, 8pm

venture outside the house, leaving it requiring emergency treatment.

**FRIDAY**  
**Great British Menu: The Finals BBC2, 8pm**  
To some cynical viewers, the chance to cook a meal may not seem like much of a prize for a professional chef. However, the climax of this year's Great British Menu isn't just any old dinner party – it's a Taste of Summer banquet to celebrate 140 years of Wimbledon. After making it through the regional heats and this week's finals, the winning chefs will now get a chance to present their dishes to guests including Wimbledon players and champions, as well as those who work hard behind the scenes. But will knowing the likes of Tim Henman and Judy Murray are about to tuck into their food inspire the chefs to serve their best ever cooking, or will the pressure in the kitchen get too much?

**The Secret World of Posh Pets ITV, 8pm**  
New series. People's high-end pampering of their pets, detailing the extent to which some wealthy individuals indulge their much-loved and respected animals.

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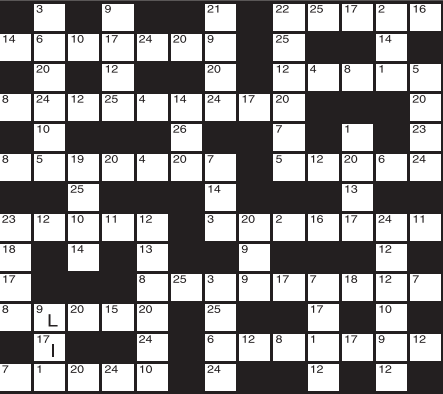


# BRAIN GYM

No.435

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	Q	B	S	Y	R	P	D	H	C	U	I	M
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
J	L	G	X	T	V	F	N	E	K	Z	W	O

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

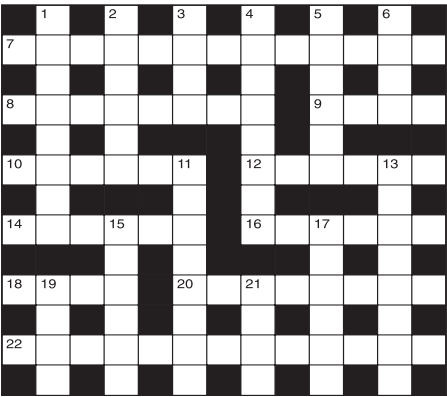
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- Dancing in the air? (6,2,5)
- Did they get promotion after skating? (8)
- Is on charges (4)
- A call for a bite (6)
- Carry too far because of celebration (6)
- Dances to go higher (6)
- Soundly beat for writing rubbish about hothead (6)
- Top performer brings deserters back (4)
- Photo of a quick bit of marksmanship? (8)
- Be strongly inclined to be really intelligent (4,1,4,4)

#### Down

- The make-up of 444 on hands and knees (3,5)
- Urging birds to produce? (6)
- A bit of a nasty eyesore (4)
- Branch not hitting the target? (8)
- Mark time and refuse to work (6)
- Begin, though having nothing to write (4)
- Put Communist pointer to the East on the drawing board again? (8)
- Ignore the deduction from the bill (8)
- Student has no head for becoming the breadwinner (6)
- Take up the summary again? (6)
- Rip a sign of sadness (4)
- All right in the morning, though in a frenzy (4)



### Quick Clues:

#### Across

- Counter-charge (13)
- Remoteness (8)
- Simple (4)
- Bewail (6)
- Really (6)
- Redress (6)
- Connect (6)
- Stylish (4)
- Uncommunicative (8)
- Upright (13)

#### Down

- Devote (8)
- Squirm (6)
- Portent (4)
- Second-rate (8)
- Be there (6)
- Fling (4)
- Alluring (8)
- Outside (8)
- Fill (6)
- Release (3,3)
- Regard (4)
- Manger (4)

## Sudoku

7				4		6		
		1			5			3
5			3	1		8	7	
	1			3				4
8			9		1			7
3				8			5	
		7		9	3			6
6			4		2	1		
		9	1					8

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	5	8	1	2	7	6	3	9
6	7	2	8	3	9	5	1	4
9	3	1	6	4	5	7	2	8
7	6	4	9	1	3	8	5	2
2	1	5	4	6	8	9	7	3
3	8	9	7	5	2	4	6	1
5	2	7	3	9	4	1	8	6
8	4	6	2	7	1	3	9	5
1	9	3	5	8	6	2	4	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Bang; 8 Accountant; 9 Seraglio; 10 Rest; 12 Sweets; 14 Flinch; 15 Ardent; 17 Cogent; 18 Asti; 19 Eyesight; 21 Concoction; 22 Side. Down: 2 Afterwards; 3 Gail; 4 Scales; 5 Put off; 6 Starting; 7 Stet; 11 Second-hand; 13 Eyepiece; 16 Trench; 17 Cleric; 18 Arch; 20 Inns.  
QUICK - Across: 1 Load; 8 Roundabout; 9 Disgrace; 10 Tray; 12 Betray; 14 Trusty; 15 Vassal; 17 Create; 18 Dear; 19 Sediment; 21 Politeness; 22 Tusk. Down: 2 Obliterate; 3 Drag; 4 Lunacy; 5 Advent; 6 Abstruse; 7 Stay; 11 Astuteness; 13 Restrain; 16 Lessen; 17 Cudgel; 18 Dupe; 20 Most.

## Quiz

- Of what is the farad a unit?
- Who created the Secret Seven?
- What do the letters LED stand for?
- Which of the Seven Wonders of the World was found underwater?
- What is the capital of Laos?
- Into which ocean does the Limpopo flow?
- What do we call a mammal of the genus Erinaceus?
- Of what is semiotics the study?
- What is hydrophobia more commonly called?
- Whose play Hedda Gabler was first produced in 1891?

### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 SS; 2 Moose; 3 Nephew; 4 French  
Revolutionary; 5 £35,000; 6 Vanwall;  
7 Laurel; 8 A computer language; 9 Parsley;  
10 Senegal.  
Niner: PROVINCES

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

87943789215  
52915  
3568

gives a bird,  
gives a second bird,  
gives a third bird.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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# Taste of Greece – on your doorstep

WHETHER it was the warm sunny Sunday afternoon, the party in full swing all around us or simply the layout of the quaint and rustic-looking restaurant we were sat in. . . .  
Whatever it was, we all felt like we had been whisked off to the shores of the Mediterranean. We were in fact in a lovely little Greek restaurant, in the middle of Kingswinford, but with the beautifully-decorated walls and cafe-style layout.  
We had driven passed Zendi, in High Street, on numerous occasions and felt it was time to give the place a go. Having never eaten at a Greek restaurant – but having looked at the menu online and realised the food appeared to tick pretty much all the boxes of ingredients we love – we were really looking forward to the experience.

## CELEBRATION

What we hadn't planned on was arriving in the middle of a celebration, with scores of happy people celebrating the birth of a newborn baby. But for us, however, the celebrations just added to the lovely atmosphere.  
My wife, Kelly, had already taken a quick glance online to see what was on offer, but a little warning is needed here – they are not exactly the same, so she was a little disappointed to find the swordfish was no longer on offer. But there was still plenty to choose from.  
Before the meals, drinks were ordered. My two-year-old daughter, Annabelle, had a simple blackcurrant squash while we decided to share a bottle of wine.  
When the time came to order our food I was left with a dilemma. What to choose when everything looked and smelt so good. Zendi's chefs pride themselves on hand-picking their ingredients, which are delivered fresh, daily, to give customers 'a truly refreshing taste



The lamb kleftiko with potatoes and vegetables



Inside you're transported to white washed villas

of Greece'. Not knowing how big the portions would be – but knowing we were all very hungry – we ordered a starter each, which we shared.  
First was the tzatziki, a famous Greek dip made with yoghurt, shredded cucumber, garlic and mint. It is one of my wife's favourites, plus Annabelle likes anything with yoghurt in it. Vegetarian dolmades, or yalantzi, was my preferred choice, vine leaves stuffed with rice, herbs, vegetable oil and onions, served with a tomato sauce. It was delicious.  
My wife opted for the Snack of Crete, grilled crusty

bread rubbed with fresh garlic, served with tomatoes, spring onions, feta cheese, oregano and a dash of olive oil. With the mains we decided to try to eat and drink traditional dishes, I went for the classic kleftiko, fresh leg of lamb on the bone, braised slowly in an oven with fresh vegetables, herbs and red wine until tender.  
Kelly decided on the stifado, lean cubes of beef and baby onions, cooked in a casserole and herbs until tender, served with rice or French fries.  
There isn't a children's menu as such, instead the restaurant makes recommendations and brings out

smaller versions of the main meals on offer. Finally, it was time for the dessert.  
We were all pretty full so we decided to share one – and it was a great decision.  
We settled on the Zendi Galaktoboureko, a divine combination of creamy custard and flaky filo dough textures, all wrapped up in a cinnamon and citrus flavoured filling.  
So, if you fancy being whisked away to the sights, sounds and flavours of Greece give Zendi a try.  
JAMES DRIVER-FISHER

A large photograph showing a group of five people (three men and two women) smiling and toasting with wine glasses. They are in a social setting with warm, bokeh-style background lights.

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# PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY  
GUIDE TO HOME  
BUYING AND  
LETTING

31  
Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, June 22, 2017

## Stunning home with great views from every aspect

This stunning executive, luxury four-bedroomed modern detached property in Oakham Road, Tividale, Oldbury, comes with two spacious reception rooms and great views from every aspect.

Tastefully decorated throughout, it is for sale through Love Your Postcode at £324,950.

A private drive leads to a porch area, opening up to the reception hall which has an under stairs storage cupboard and a cloakroom/WC.

A well-appointed kitchen/breakfast room comes complete with a vinyl floor finish, spot lights to the ceiling, a range of base units with cupboards and drawers beneath, complementary work surface areas, bowl and a half single drainer stainless steel sink with filter tap, integrated appliances to include a Hotpoint dishwasher, Hotpoint five ring gas hob, Hotpoint double oven, integrated Hotpoint fridge freezer, Hotpoint cooker hood, storage cupboards at high level.

The kitchen overlooks the rear and is served by a utility room.

The through lounge comprises of an open dining room with a bay window to the front, double sliding doors opening to the lounge area with spot lights to the ceiling, a gas fire in a feature fireplace, and French doors opening to an easy to manage part lawned and paved garden.

The first floor landing is spacious. The front facing master bedroom has an en-suite shower room with a vinyl floor finish, heated towel rail, a corner shower cubicle, part tiled walls, a wash hand basin with work top and storage beneath. Bedroom two overlooks the rear garden. Bedroom three has a window to the front. Bedroom four is L-shaped.

The family bathroom has vinyl flooring, a wash hand basin with a work top and storage cupboard beneath, WC with push button flush, a walk-in shower cubicle, part tiled walls, a panelled bath with tiled splash-backs and a heated towel rail.

The garage has lighting, power points and an alarm sensor.

Love Your Postcode are a next-generation property sales and lettings business with traditional values.

The development of their technology, and values/ ideas has fundamentally disrupted the existing model by giving the customer everything they have been asking for at a fraction of the cost.

### TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Love Your Postcode

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### KEY FEATURES

Executive detached house

Exclusive cul-de-sac

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2 spacious receptions

Great views



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## A partly improved terraced property

**LOWER GORNAL**  
**£95,000**

An ideal first time buy or of interest to an investor, this two-bedroomed terrace house in Bird Street, Lower Gornal, Dudley is for sale through Wakeman at £95,000 with no chain.

A well proportioned property close to Gornal Wood village centre, it has a living room, lobby, dining kitchen, a landing, two bedrooms, a bathroom and gardens.

This property has been subject to some modernisation and improvement, but is now in need of some further upgrading.

It is only a short walk from a wide range of amenities and is within easy commuting distance of most major West Midlands commercial centres.

Call Wakeman on 01384 459999.



**Ideal family home is well presented and well designed**

**DUDLEY**  
**£258,000**

<<<

A rare opportunity to acquire such a stunning property in a great area, this spacious and attractively presented home in Mansion Close, Earls Keep, Dudley, comes with four generous bedrooms, one with en-suite.

It is for sale through Taylors at £258,000.

The accommodation, which is beautifully presented throughout as well as being spacious and ideal for a family, briefly comprises a reception hall, a fitted cloakroom/WC, a lounge with a bay window, a separate dining room, a re-fitted kitchen, utility section, four generous bedrooms (having a re-appointed shower room en-suite) re-appointed bathroom, a garage and a garden.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing to see if this is the ideal next home for you, contact the selling agents on 01902 880888.

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# PROPERTY

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# All-new Swift has summer finance and loyalty offers

By Sharon Walters

The all-new Swift is now on sale and Suzuki is pleased to announce the availability of its attractive PCP finance offers.

Personal Contract Purchase is an ideal way for customers to take delivery of a new Suzuki with a very low deposit and low monthly payments too.

Suzuki Financial Services is also offering a £500 deposit allowance with 2.9 per cent APR finance on SZ-T and SZ5 two wheel drive models until the end of June.

Taking an SZ-T with 1.0 Boosterjet engine as an example with the £500 deposit allowance on offer, no further deposit is required and payments are then spread over 48 months at £185 per month with an APR of just 2.9 per cent.

Monthly payments can be lowered to £159 per month for the SZ-T if a small deposit of £1,163 is made. As with any PCP agreement, an optional final payment is required to keep the car which for this model is £4,645.

Moving to the top of the range SZ5 1.0-litre Boosterjet 2WD with the £500 deposit allowance, just £1,305 is all that is needed as a customer deposit followed by 48 monthly payments of £179 and an APR of 2.9 per cent. The optional final payment for this model is £5,153.



Good deals but only until the end of June!

For even greater fuel efficiency, the SZ5 2WD with manual transmission is equipped as standard with SHVS (Smart Hybrid Vehicle by Suzuki) as standard. In situations that require higher fuel use, such as when starting from a standstill or accelerating, SHVS helps suppress fuel consumption by providing electric motor assist using electricity generated through regenerative braking. Because the system uses a belt drive rather than a conventional starter motor to restart the engine after an engine stop it allows for a quiet and smooth start.

The six speed automatic transmission equipped SZ5 is also included in the low rate and deposit allowance offers with a customer deposit of £1,543 required followed by 48 monthly payments of £199.

Suzuki has introduced a new and comprehensive Accessories programme to enable customers to fully personalise their new Swift. As an introductory offer Suzuki will contribute £500 towards these to all existing Suzuki car owners. The only stipulation is that customers must have had a Suzuki car in the same household for at least 90 days and the accessories are ordered at point of purchase.

Standard equipment for all Swift models in the range is comprehensive and the SZ3 model with 1.2-litre Dualjet engine and manual transmission includes six airbags, air conditioning, leather steering wheel, DAB radio with Bluetooth and four speakers, rear privacy glass, LED daytime running lights, 15-inch wheels, body coloured door mirrors and front electric windows.

#### Pricing:

1.2-litre SZ3 Dualjet – manual transmission, £10,999

1.0-litre SZ-T Boosterjet – manual transmission, £12,999

1.0-litre SZ5 Boosterjet SHVS – manual transmission, £14,499

1.0-litre SZ5 Boosterjet – automatic transmission, £15,849

1.2-litre SZ5 SHVS ALLGRIP – manual transmission, £15,499



Suzuki's new Swift is a pretty looker

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#At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) pay the optional final payment and own the vehicle; ii) return the vehicle: subject to excess mileage and fair wear and tear, charges may apply; or iii) replace: part exchange the vehicle. With Solutions Personal Contract Plan: \*Monthly payment based on ŠKODA Citigo 5dr model shown – 1.0 MPI SE at £9,995 OTR on a 42-month, 17,500-mile agreement. 18%+. Subject to availability and status. T&Cs apply. Offer available when ordered between 4 April and 3 July 2017 from participating retailers. Excludes Citigo S trim and model year 18 (new Citigo). Indemnities may be required. Offers are not available in conjunction with any other offer and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Accurate at time of publication. Freeport ŠKODA Financial Services.

Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA Citigo range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 51.4 (5.5) to 57.7 (4.9); Extra Urban 72.4 (3.9) to 76.4 (3.7); Combined 64.2 (4.4) to 68.9 (4.1). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the ŠKODA Citigo range are 103 to 96 g/km. Standard EU test figures are for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.





## Hyundai unveils new compact SUV

Joining the Tucson and Santa Fe in the company's range of SUVs, the Kona is designed to take on the likes of Nissan's Juke and is scheduled to arrive in the UK in late October.

The exterior has been given a variety of dramatic styling touches, from slim daytime running lights at the front of the car to contrasting black 'armour' designed to protect it and give it a more dynamic look.

Euisun Ching, vice chairman of Hyundai Motor Company, said: "With the Kona, we have created a stylish and highly functional compact SUV, perfectly suited to the needs of customers who pursue challenging, action-filled lifestyles.

"We aim to set new standards for the compact SUV segment, with appealing design, cutting-edge connectivity and class-leading safety features."

Inside, the Kona benefits from a large infotainment screen that has been designed to 'float' above the dashboard, giving a better sense of interior space. This system will be available with a five-, seven- or eight-inch display, and will incorporate smartphone connectivity options, such as Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. The underfloor layout of the car has also been extensively worked upon, so that, despite being four-wheel-drive, there's plenty of room for all passengers. The rear seats fold flat to provide better practicality levels, too.

Offered with a choice of two turbocharged, small-capacity petrol engines, the Kona should be economical as well as fun to drive. The first is a 1.0-litre unit linked to a six-speed manual transmission, while the second is a larger 1.6-litre turbocharged engine driven through a seven-speed dual-clutch automatic.

An optional four-wheel-drive system will be available, while refinement levels should be impressive thanks to a MacPherson front-strut system and new sub-frame bush mountings.

A host of safety features will also be included in the Kona, including forward collision avoidance assist (FCA), lane keeping assist and driver attention warning.

## Electric black cab shines in desert heat



London Taxi Company (LTC)'s strenuous testing regime for its range extended electric vehicle has taken the cab to the extreme desert heat of Arizona in the US.

A critical part of the development programme of the vehicle, extreme climate testing not just proves the considerable distances the vehicle can cover whilst the atmospheric controls are running at full power, but also that the new cab is a vehicle suitable for the world, not just for London.

LTC's new electric taxi will be the most comprehensively tested product in the company's history, all to ensure that it meets not just the high regulatory standards of London but the requirements and climates of cities all around the world.

Chris Gubbey, CEO of the London Taxi Company said: "Since announcing this project we have had considerable interest not just from European cities but hot weather cities around the world. To convert this interest into sales we must prove TX5 can perform as well in the 45 °C heat of Dubai as it can in the sub-zero temperatures of the Arctic, and as it does in the changeable conditions of London."

On these trials, the vehicle successfully undertook daily of journeys of 300 miles, the equivalent of driving from Heathrow to central London some 20 times. This is roughly triple the average daily mileage of the typical London cab, reassuring cab drivers that there are plenty of extra-miles in the tank if they're sharing the vehicle with another driver, or, should they land a popular "roader" (London cabbie parlance for a long-distance fare).

# 50 years ago: Launch of innovative Mazda Cosmo

By Sharon Walters

**It was a pivotal moment in automobile history when, 50 years ago today, Mazda launched its rotary-powered Mazda Cosmo Sport. The sleek, stylish two-seater marked the beginning of a legacy of innovation that endures to this day – a legacy of fun-to-drive cars and motor sport success powered by unique technology.**

Back in 1967, the Cosmo Sport was the world's first car powered by a twin-rotor engine. Known outside Japan as the 110S, it was also Mazda's first sports car, supplying the DNA that has gone into legendary models like the Mazda RX-7 and Mazda MX-5, and indeed every vehicle the Japanese marque manufactures today. Although only 1,176 were built, the Cosmo Sport was monumental for Mazda, marking its transformation from a maker of predominantly trucks and small cars to an exciting, unique brand characterised by its convention-defying approach to engineering as well as design.

Development of the powerplant under the Cosmo Sport's bonnet exemplifies the company's challenger spirit and a never-give-up tradition still evident 50 years later. Mazda's engineers surmounted numerous hurdles to making the rotary engine commercially viable, testing Cosmo Sport prototypes over hundreds of thousands of kilometres prior to the market launch. Although dozens of companies including most major carmakers signed licensing agreements with NSU to develop the German car and motorcycle maker's new technology, only one was successful.

Having harnessed the rotary's potential to deliver performance levels equivalent to much larger and heavier reciprocating piston engines, Mazda would go on to build almost two million rotary-powered vehicles, also achieving considerable racing success. The RX-7, for example, dominated its class at IMSA (International Motor Sport Association) events throughout the 1980s. But Mazda's biggest single triumph on the track came in 1991, when a Mazda 787B powered by a 2.6-litre four-rotor powerplant producing 710PS won the 24 Hours of Le Mans. It was the only non-reciprocating engine ever to win the illustrious endurance race, and the first victory by an Asian brand.

This willingness to try new things and relentlessly push limits remains synonymous with Mazda. The approach spawned the MX-5, whose Jinba-Ittai driver-and-car-as-one ethos has made it the most popular roadster ever. It also brought the world SKYACTIV Technology. Lightweight and unusual like the rotary engine, the SKYACTIV range of powertrains, platforms, car bodies and other technology found in today's Mazdas are the products of engineering breakthroughs to achieve an extraordinary combination of performance and efficiency. SKYACTIV engines, for example, overcome the drawbacks to extreme compression, increasing the driving fun factor while at the same time reducing fuel consumption and emissions – and differentiating Mazda from its competitors.

**Magnus Walker admits he is not anyone's idea of a typical Porsche owner, with his long beard and dreadlocks.**

At 19, after being brought up in the desolated remains of the industrial north-east with few prospects, instead of getting on his bike (as many like him were exorted to do) he got on a plane to the United States.

He took a one-way ticket, with little money in his pocket and no job offer. But he found a succession of jobs until a defining moment in his life, when he first set up his own small clothing business in California.

Later Magnus started a movie location company – now with a portfolio of photogenic property – and the lad who left school with two O-levels grew his businesses into a multi-million dollar empire.

The charismatic entrepreneur even has time to be a motivational speaker to students at the University of California, alongside the likes of Microsoft's Bill Gates.

But it's not business success or big money that's the real passion in Magnus's life – his passion is for Porsches. Lots of them.

It all started as a ten-year-old, visiting the Earls Court Motor Show in London with his



The Cosmo was Mazda's first sports car and the world's first car powered by a twin-rotor engine



Mazda's engineers surmounted numerous hurdles to making the rotary engine commercially viable

# And yes, this man owns Porsches!



Magnus Walker's passion for Porsche started when he was just ten-years-old

philosophy are part of his make up: 12 hour days are still the norm.

And he's always more than willing to talk Porsches.

"You can listen to your gut instinct, you can sieze an opportunity, be passionate and individual about what you do and never give up . . . BUT you can only do that all together with hard work.

"Good old fashioned hard work goes a long, long way," he says. "I think that people looking in on someone who's been successful – in any walk of life – often severely underestimate the amount of sheer hard graft that the individual has put in.

"I'm talking about firing on all cylinders, year after year."

That's the way to achieve your dream: it's clearly worked for Magnus Walker.





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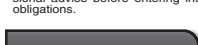
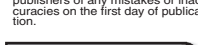
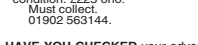
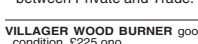
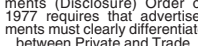
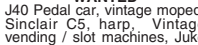
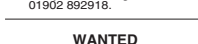
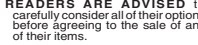
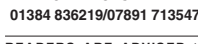
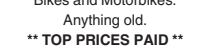
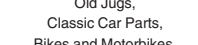
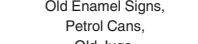
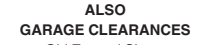
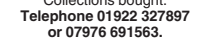
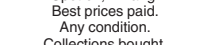
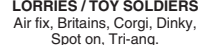
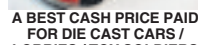
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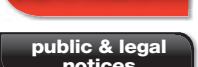
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Warwickshire's Chris Woakes at a photocall at Edgbaston



Ben Stokes and Chris Woakes celebrate victory in a one-day international against Bangladesh



Woakes before the Champions Trophy game against Bangladesh



England's Chris Woakes celebrates his dismissal of Mohammad Amir

# This humble all-rounder is realising his potential

## SPORTING MEMORIES

By Matt Maher

**HIS Champions Trophy campaign may have ended just three overs into the tournament, but Great Barr's Chris Woakes is still hoping to make an impact on the game this summer.**

The all-rounder told of his frustration after being ruled out of the one-day tournament – won by Pakistan at the weekend – early in the first game against Bangladesh after suffering a side strain.

He faces a race against time to be fit for the first of this summer's Test matches against South Africa on July 6.

However, the humble 28-year-old is still determined to have a big say.

"Hopefully I can be a part of the majority of it, if not all of it," he said. "There are some really important Test matches to come."

"These are exciting times."  
According to those who know him best, the all-rounder was stunned almost into silence upon learning he had been bought by the Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League auction for a figure just shy of half a million pounds.

### Modest

Compared to the £1.7million spent on England team-mate Ben Stokes by the wonderfully-monikered Rising Pune Supergiants, it appears a rather modest amount.

Not that it bothers Woakes in the slightest, allowing him as it does the opportunity to write the next chapter in a career which has in the past 12 months begun to hit the heights long anticipated.

That Woakes was a cricketer of considerable potential was evident from the moment he broke through the ranks at Warwickshire, topping the county's bowling averages in 2008 at the age of just 19.

International call-ups inevitably followed, first as part of the limited overs set-up and then, in 2013, at Test level.

But as has been the case with so many others who shone in the county game, finding his feet in the international arena took time.

Even as late as this time last year, it remained unclear whether his potential would ever be fulfilled.

*"There are always going to be ups and downs but last summer was an up. I think my game has matured. The more that you are exposed to international cricket, the more you adapt"*

filled. Those questions have now been emphatically answered. "It was a breakthrough year," admits Woakes.

"I'd had a tricky time of it in South Africa during the winter of 2015, when things did not go as well as I would have liked. I got back to Warwickshire and just hit the ground running."

That last sentence belongs firmly in understatement category.

An injury to Stokes opened the door for Woakes and he headed to the second Test from Sri Lanka last May fresh from taking career best figures of 9-36 in a County Championship game with Durham.

Five wickets followed as England romped home to victory. What had proven so tough before suddenly came naturally and Woakes has never looked back.

"It almost snowballed out of control really," he laughs. It's the sort of form you want to bottle and take everywhere with you.

"There are always going to be ups and downs but last summer was an up. I think my game has matured. The more you are exposed to international cricket, the more you adapt."

"There are very few who go into it and boss it from day one. Having those tasters, in and out, was definitely good for me."

"I feel like my game has improved to the stage when I can perform at that level. I am more confident."

den. I have a belief in myself that I am good enough to do it." That belief was tested in India as Woakes tasted the IPL phenomenon for the first time. Eoin Morgan, England's limited overs captain, provided a useful source of advice.

"I tapped up Eoin Morgan, who has been there for many years," says Woakes. "I think he has done four or five tournaments."

"I asked him what to expect, pick his brains about how to go about it. I think every team, every franchise, does things a little differently."

"It is one of those experiences that until you get out there and put yourself in the pressure environment, you don't know how you are going to handle it."

The success of Twenty20 is threatening to change the shape of cricket forever and everyone has an opinion on the ECB's plans to introduce a similar style tournament to IPL to the English game.

It is, as Warwickshire sporting director Ashley Giles so accurately observed, 'cricket's Brexit'.

You can place Woakes firmly in the 'in favour but with some reservations' camp.

### Concept

"We have seen how well it has worked in India and Australia and it's important we get more faces into the sport," he said.

"More kids playing the game and enjoying cricket. I think it is a great idea and a great concept."

"Although it is not going to happen until 2020, it needs to happen in this country. The game is constantly evolving and you need to keep improving it and making it attractive to the public."

"They don't want to keep paying for the same thing. It is important we don't want to stand still."

"At the same time you don't want to lose the interest in Test cricket and it just to become a T20 sport. The traditions of the game are very important."

Those Test traditions will be firmly in the spotlight later this year when England head to Australia for The Ashes.

The latest instalment of one of sport's greatest rivalries will come after a close to relentless summer which includes a series against South Africa, when Joe Root will make his debut as captain. A series against the West Indies will follow.

## Genting Arena date for Globetrotters tour

THE world famous Harlem Globetrotters bring their spectacular show to the Genting Arena, Birmingham as part of their 2018 world tour.

They will be in Birmingham on Friday, May 18 as they enter their 93rd season of entertaining fans.

Proving once again to be a busy year for the Globetrotters the current 2017 World Tour sees them play in over 250 North American markets and 30 countries worldwide.

Only one year after setting seven official Guinness World Records titles, the Globetrotters broke a single-day total of nine records in 2016, including the longest basketball hook shot, longest basketball shot blindfolded, most basketball three-pointers made by a pair in one minute, and longest blindfolded basketball hook-shot.

During their 2018 World Tour, the famed team will feature a star-studded roster that includes Big Easy Lofton, Ant Atkinson, Hi-Lite Bruton, Thunder Law, Bull Bullard and Cheese Chisholm – plus female stars TNT Lister and Ace Jackson.

Tickets for the Genting Arena date have gone on general sale from from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222.

## Second City slickers have rivals on ropes

BCB Promotions return to Birmingham next month with their five-fight Professional Boxing Dinner Show – Second City Slickers.

Former WBC International Super Bantamweight Champion and English Super Bantamweight king Sean Davis is back in action on the July 22 card.

'Showtime' lost his WBC strap to Gamal Yafai in a hotly-anticipated local derby at the Barclaycard Arena last month.

The 27-year-old Brummie will be looking to finish the season on a high as he looks to go again next term.

Undefeated Birmingham super welterweight Jordan Clayton (6-0) also features. The 23-year-old defeated Nick Golubs last time out on the same show at the Barclaycard Arena.

Having secured an International Challenge belt, Clayton has his eyes on a British strap this time around.

Joining Davis and Clayton are a trio of debutants – all from Birmingham. Super welterweight Ashley Silver, cruiserweight Matt Sen, and heavy-weight Nathan Stevens all feature.

Tickets are £65 VIP to include a two-course meal or £35 standard, unserved seating. Call 07964 984 445.

## Tai thanks fans for support after burglary

WOLVERHAMPTON speedway ace Tai Woffinden has thanked all his fans who have rallied round him and his wife Faye after they were burgled.

The burglary took place at their new home near East Midlands Airport when Woffinden was racing in the Mitas Czech Republic FIM Speedway Grand Prix in Prague. Pregnant Faye was at her parents' home watching on TV. Woffinden estimates £20,000 worth of personal belongings were taken – and it could have been worse. "Personally I think they were disturbed when Faye got home," he said. "It's naturally a horrible time, particularly for Faye when I'm away racing. I was so angry when I was told about it. Thanks to all the fans who have sent messages of support through social media, once again they have proved how special they are."

Woffinden, who won the Elite League with Wolves last year and remains an asset of the Monmore Green outfit, managed to put the raid to the back of his mind as he continued his fine league form.

The day after the burglary – he scored 13 from five races in Worclaw's 51-39 Polish League win over Leszno. Three days later he carded 11+1 from five in the Swedish League as Masarna beat Piraterna 54-36.





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## Tromans in age group run victory

THERE was midweek action for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club as Helen Tromans took part in the Arrow Valley 12k as part of the Worcestershire Midweek Series placing 56th overall and claiming first place in her age group by finishing in 56.12.

The blue hoops were also able to field two teams in the popular Stafford Showground Relays with clubs having to run 4 x 2 miles over a meandering but rapid course. The Young Guns of Richard Bate in 11.54, Dan Norman in 14.06, Richard Tonks in 12.40 and Simon Blizzard in 12.06 finished in 21st place in a total time of 50.48. The Old Boys of Dave Norman in 11.36, Mark Homer in 12.21, Andrew Weaver in 13.12 and Roger Bedard in 14.16 finished in a time of 51.27 to take 2nd place in their age category.

It appeared that DK runners went out looking for the hardest and hilliest races they could find at the weekend with the tropical temperatures making things doubly difficult.

A large group took part in the Trail (Half) Marathon Wales around the forest tracks and fire roads of Coed-Y-Brenin with Richard Bate claiming the honour of the first hoop home in 1.51.51 in 31st place just out sprinting Andy Sprague who chased him home in 1.52.01 a place behind. Rory Campbell was 123rd in 2.12.44, Sandra Brain was 164th in 2.18.53, Helen Hickman was 214th in 2.25.34, Cindy Froggatt was 215th in the same time, Karen Doy was 219th in 2.25.53, Sue Payton was 234th in 2.27.47, Julie Allen was 295th in 2.34.46, Marie Latreche in 315th in 2.38.08, Lyn Sprague was 323rd in 2.39.25, Kathryn Sneyd was 336th in 2.41.14, Sandra Farnell was 405th in 2.51.11 and Liz Hettle stopped the clock in 3.13.21 to take 511th place.

Twenty four hours later Dave Norman travelled to the Welsh borders to race in the Offas Dyke 15 following the footpath that marks the border between England and Wales covering 2500 feet of climbing over the 15 mile distance coming home in 2.13.09 in 14th place and claiming 3rd in his age group.

## Runner joins the Avengers

STOURBRIDGE Running Club had a variety of outings recently.

At the Cobra Classic, runners took on a tough multi-terrain course which included the monument at Wychbury Hill, Trevor Osborne was first back for Stourbridge in 39.59, Louise Collins was second lady in 43.37, followed by Guy Carpenter in 45.08, Chris Ashcroft in 46.05, Jon Taylor in 55.32 and Stephen Bloomer in 58.34.

At the Severn Valley Trail Run, previous winner Tom Isherwood came fourth in 42.19 and Alastair McIntosh finished in 52.10.

At the Avenger triathlon, Tim Lloyd-Langston finished the standard distance in 3.14.48 while James Bellamy finished the middle distance event in 5.45.52 and Tim Bailey in 5.56.54.

## Boxer left in a Stew over name change

TIVIDALE'S Ryan 'Stewart' Davies wants fight fans to remember his name ahead of his next ring date at Walsall Town Hall - as he's had to change it!

Davies steps through the ropes for his second boxing contest on Friday, July 7 after impressing on his debut.

He features on Errol Johnson's BCB Promotions' show, titled 'Made in the Black Country.'

He's been registered as 'Stewart Davies', using his middle name as his first name under instructions from the British Boxing Board of Control.

There's already two other Ryan Davies's boxing professionally, the second having to change to an

### Boxing

alias of 'RP Davies' to avoid confusion. That left the Black Country's Davies having to use Stewart.

Davies said: "You can't licence more than one name with the board, I'll try and get it changed again if I can but there might not be much I can do. My dad is happy, it's his first name! Even if I win on the night, the announcer will have to call me Stewart Davies. It's just one of those things."

The 24-year-old made his bow in the welterweight division at Birmingham's the Venue on

April 29, putting down and outpointing Andrej Cepur over four rounds. A short right hand dumped the Lithuanian on the canvas in the second, but Davies had to settle for a 40-35 decision with a 10-8 round for the knockdown.

He's taken a short holiday since then to the Greek island of Kos with partner Charlie, who enjoyed lounging by the pool as he kept up with his runs.

The former kickboxer remains involved in his former calling, too, and still works as an instructor at Oldbury's School of Black Belts.

Tickets are on sale priced at £35 and £60 ring-side, call 0845 111 2900.

# FAIR PLAY TO THE GLASSBOYS

GLASSBOYS picked up the Evo-stik NPL Premier Division Fair Play award for boasting the best disciplinary record in the division during 2016/17 after Gary Hackett's men collected no red cards throughout the campaign.

In addition, Stourbridge FC were named the NPL Community Club of the year at the Northern Premier League AGM.

It saw the club recognised for their thriving junior and girls' development sections and charity work, such as the support for the Stourbridge Old Boys against WBA legends match that raised thousands of pounds for the Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge.

Meanwhile, on the player front, boss Hackett has strengthened his attacking options in the wake of the losses of Luke Benbow, Chris Lait and Matt Dodd by bringing back two familiar faces to the club.

### Worcester

Returning to the War Memorial Ground is 21-year-old forward Jordan Murphy, who was a prolific goalscorer in the Stourbridge youth team before signing professional forms with Walsall in September 2014. He subsequently had successful loan stints with Worcester City and Kidderminster Harriers before being released by the Saddlers.

He signed for Worcester City in August 2016. Moving into his preferred forward role, he chipped in with useful goals for City but couldn't prevent the club being relegated.

Striker Ryan Rowe has re-joined for his fourth stint at the War Memorial Ground having netted 90 times in 182 games for Stourbridge. The 29-year-old ended the last campaign at Lye Town after notching 15 goals in 34 appearances for Leamington.

Glassboys have also drafted in versatile Aris Christophorou, who joins after three seasons at Rushall Olympic where he chalked up over 150 appearances.

## Cradley claim hard-fought win

CRADLEY'S battling 47-37 win over Kent Kings was marred by a suspected leg break for visiting rider Luke Clifton.

A strong second half and three race wins apiece for leading lights Danny Ayres and Tom Perry smoothed the path to victory. A fall for Kings' top scorer Luke Bowen spelled the end of the night after 14 heats due to the track curfew.

Showman Ayres dived in front of his rivals from gate three and took a comfortable victory in the opener. Heathens gated on a 5-1 but Anders Rowe reeled in Ryan Burton to limit the damage for Kent.

Jack Thomas trapped in heat three with Ben Hopwood sailing around Luke Harris for a Kings 5-1 but parity was restored when Perry passed Nathan Stoneman on lap two of the fourth race.

Harris dived up the inside of Bradley Andrews to secure a 3-3 for Cradley in heat five before Ayres won another shared race in the sixth. Perry followed suit in the seventh with Kent's Andrews getting ahead in heat eight and holding off Burton. Heat nine had only three runners with Heathens taking the lead as Dan Greenwood and Harris earned a first home maximum of the night.

Ayres recovered from being pushed wide by Hopwood to take heat 10. Bowen blasted to another comfortable win but Perry jetted up the inside to go from fourth to second on lap one to ensure another 3-3. Cradley seized control when Burton got to the front and Greenwood's battle with Hopwood for second came to a premature end as the Kent charger packed up.

Eight ahead into heat 13, the hosts were handed a boost when Stoneman was sent back 15 metres. Bowen split Perry and Ayres but the result was all but sealed by the heat advantage. Thomas's flying start gave the visitors hope of a consolation point but that was dashed by Bowen's fall.



Danny Ayres took a comfortable opening victory

## Solid Stour display for second place

A SOLID all-round team performance from Stourbridge led to a convincing victory over Millford Hall by a massive 143 run margin.

The win propels them up to second place in Division three of the Birmingham and District League, four points behind new leaders, Lichfield.

Winning the toss Stour skipper Josh Banks decided to bat first. Openers Richard Bradley and Harshad Patel again gave their team a sound foundation, with 53. Bradley was run out for 37 in the eighth over, with the responsibility passed on to his brother Matt, linking up with Patel. They did not disappoint, putting on 93 in partnership. Patel was out caught behind for 75 off Stuart Phazez in the 37th over with the score on 147.

Zain Ul Hassan and Bradley continued to build the innings to 160 until Bradley was judged LBW for 39 off Sam Jeavons, one of his six victims, in the 40th over. Stour added 139 further runs through Ul Hassan (30) Josh Banks (54), Jade Richter (13) as the main contributors.

Millford openers Stuart Phazez and Bradley Nash smashed 53 off nine overs, well over the required run rate. Dominic O'Reilly bowled the aggressive Phazez for 39 off 44 balls including eight boundaries. From the other end the speed of Jade Richter defeated Luke Ponder bowled for one. O'Reilly bowled other opener Nash for 11.

Number four Premier batsman Zaheer Suliman threatened to take the game away with a six and a boundary but Suliman had to walk when caught in the slips off Jitesh Jivan-Patel for 13 in the 15th over. Stour's recovery was clinical with 96-6 off 22 overs. The home side resisted, adding 40 runs. Spinners O'Reilly and Mikesha Jivan-Patel were able to remove the tail once Ul Hassan had bounced out Davis behind for 41.

## Chess club summer tournament starts

WITH chess season at an end, Stourbridge Chess Club has started on its program of summer activities which enable members to stay in form and prospective members to come along and try their hand.

Stourbridge Chess Club's summer tournament has started. In the first round of a Swiss tournament all the games followed form except for the game between second team player Chris Cox and the club's best player Nic Fallowfield. Cox played a great game against Fallowfield and had a better pawn structure in a rook and six pawns endgame when he accepted a draw.

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